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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Moratorium on the export of anti-personnel landmines

Report of the Secretary-General

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* On behalf of the States members of the European Union and of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe associated with it (Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia) as well as of the associated countries Cyprus and Malta.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 12 December 1995, the General Assembly adopted resolution 50/70 O, entitled "Moratorium on the export of anti-personnel landmines", operative paragraphs 1 to 3 of which read as follows:

> "The General Assembly,
>
> "...
>
> "1. Welcomes the moratoriums already declared by certain States on the export of anti-personnel landmines;
>
> "2. Urges States that have not yet done so to declare such moratoriums at the earliest possible date;
>
> "3. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report on steps taken by Member States to implement such moratoriums, and to submit it to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session under the item entitled 'General and complete disarmament'.

2. In pursuance of the request contained in paragraph 3 of resolution 50/70 O, the Secretary-General requested, in a note verbale dated 23 March 1996, that Member States provide the relevant information on the matter by 31 May 1996. Information has been received thus far from Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Israel, Italy (and on behalf of the European Union and of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe associated with it - Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia - as well as of the associated countries Cyprus and Malta), Jordan, Liechtenstein, Singapore and Ukraine. Any additional information received from Member States will be issued as addenda to the present report.

II. MEASURES TAKEN TO LIMIT THE EXPORT OF ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES

3. In 1993, on an initiative by the United States of America, the General Assembly called on Member States to declare a moratorium on the export of anti-personnel landmines (resolution 48/75 K of 16 December 1993), and continued to do so in 1994 (resolution 49/75 D of 15 December 1994) and in 1995 (resolution 50/70 O). Also in 1993, the Assembly adopted resolution 48/79, which began the process leading to the establishment of a group of governmental experts to prepare a review conference, and ultimately to the holding of the First Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW Review Conference).

4. The convening of the Review Conference, in September 1995, generated a flurry of unilateral, regional and global activity.

A. Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects

5. At the final meeting of its first session, on 13 October 1995, the Review Conference adopted the text of a Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV). At its two resumed sessions, from 15 to 19 January 1996 and from 22 April to 3 May 1996, the Conference concluded the review and the amendment of Protocol II (on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices). Amended Protocol II and a Final Declaration were adopted on 3 May by the 55 States parties to the Convention. 1/

6. In accordance with article 8 of amended Protocol II, dealing with "Transfers", the high contracting parties would undertake: not to transfer any mine the use of which was prohibited by the Protocol; not to transfer any mine to any recipient other than a State or a State agency authorized to receive such transfers; to exercise restraint in the transfer of any mine the use of which was restricted by the Protocol (in particular any anti-personnel mines to States which were not bound by the Protocol, unless the recipient State agreed to apply the Protocol); and to ensure that any transfer in accordance with the article took place in full compliance, by both the transferring and the recipient State, with the relevant provisions of the Protocol and the applicable norms of international humanitarian law. States parties will hold annual conferences to discuss the operation and implementation of the amended Protocol.

B. Unilateral initiatives

7. The following unilateral activities have been reported: 2/

(a) As of 28 June 1996, 54 States have declared their support for a global ban on anti-personnel landmines: Afghanistan, Angola, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, France, Germany, Guatemala, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Saint Lucia, Slovenia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay;

1/ For full details on the Review Conference and the texts of the Additional Protocol, amended Protocol II and the Final Declaration, see document CCW/CONF.I/16 (Part I). A list of the documents of the Conference is contained in document CCW/CONF.I/16.

2/ See also the reports of the Secretary-General (A/49/275 and Add.1 and A/50/701), as well as section III of the present report.

(b) In April 1996, Australia announced the indefinite suspension of the use of anti-personnel landmines, and noted that only "in the case of a substantial deterioration in [its] strategic circumstances, in which Australia's security was under threat ... would suspension be reviewed";

(c) Bulgaria informed the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament that by Decision No. 104 of 2 May 1996 concerning changes and amendments to the imports and exports regime of the Republic of Bulgaria, a timely moratorium on the export of anti-personnel landmines was introduced. The decision took effect immediately upon adoption and is valid until 30 April 1999;

(d) In January 1996, Canada informed the Secretary-General that it was declaring a comprehensive unilateral moratorium on the production, export and operational use of anti-personnel landmines;

(e) In April 1996, China declared at the CCW Review Conference that, pending the entry into force of the amended Landmine Protocol, it would implement a moratorium on its export of anti-personnel landmines that were not in conformity with the technical specifications on detectability, self-destruction and self-deactivation as provided for by the Protocol, and would ban the export of booby traps;

(f) Denmark, on 28 June 1996, announced in a press release that it would "unilaterally refrain from using anti-personnel mines in the Danish defense";

(g) The Finnish press reported on 4 May 1996 that Finland planned to spend 2 million Finnish markkaa to modify its existing stocks of anti-personnel landmines to make them detectable (making Finland the first country to modify its stocks to comply with the provisions of amended Protocol II of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons);

(h) On 16 April 1996, Germany announced that its army would no longer be equipped with landmines and that it intended to destroy over a million of them;

(i) The Congress of Guatemala adopted a resolution, transmitted to the United Nations on 9 July 1996, supporting the elimination of anti-personnel landmines;

(j) On 15 July 1996, Israel informed the Secretary-General of its decision to extend the moratorium on export of anti-personnel landmines for a further period of three years and reiterated its readiness to share with other States its know-how, assistance and training in mine clearance;

(k) In March 1996, the Netherlands announced that it would no longer use anti-personnel landmines and that stockpiled mines would be destroyed. On 2 April, a resolution calling for a bill banning the production of these weapons was passed by a unanimous vote of the Lower House of the Dutch Parliament, which was the final step to a comprehensive ban in the Netherlands;

(l) Following its announcement at the first session of the CCW Review Conference, held in September/October 1995, that it had no stocks of anti-personnel mines, New Zealand, in April 1996, announced a formal

renunciation of these weapons. It reserved its right to review this position in "exceptional" circumstances;

(m) Norway announced that it would destroy its existing stocks of anti-personnel landmines in January 1996;

(n) In a Presidential statement made in December 1995, the Philippines announced that it would destroy its anti-personnel mine stockpile. The Armed Forces of the Philippines subsequently reported that it had disposed of all remaining claymore mines in its inventory as of March 1996;

(o) In May 1996, Singapore informed the Secretary-General that it had declared a two-year moratorium on the export of anti-personnel landmines that had no self-destruct or self-neutralizing mechanisms;

(p) On 13 May 1996, South Africa announced a permanent ban on the export of landmines, and an interim ban on their use by its defence force, which will conduct a study to review long-term policy. [Last year South Africa announced that it planned to replace its existing stocks with "smart" mines];

(q) In March 1996, the Swiss Chamber of Deputies adopted a bill supporting a ban on anti-personnel mines;

(r) In January 1996, Turkey informed the United Nations that it had decided, on a unilateral basis, to declare a comprehensive moratorium on all anti-personnel landmine exports and transfers, for a renewable term of three years;

(s) In April 1996, the United Kingdom announced that it would destroy a substantial part of its existing stocks of anti-personnel landmines; would not use any of these mines operationally, except in exceptional circumstances and with specific ministerial authorization; and would also extend with immediate effect its national export moratorium to prohibit the export of all types of anti-personnel landmines to all destinations;

(t) On 16 May 1996, the President of the United States, in announcing the new United States landmine policy, stated that the United States would: end use of "dumb" mines by 1999, except across a United Nations demilitarized zone, such as Korea; continue use of "smart" mines indefinitely, until alternatives were developed; and negotiate an international agreement to ban anti-personnel mines.

C. Regional initiatives

8. Action against these weapons has also continued at the regional level.

9. In December 1995, the Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference appealed for the complete elimination of anti-personnel landmines.

10. In February 1996, the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) called on subregional organizations on the continent to launch

initiatives for the prohibition of anti-personnel landmines in support of the previous commitment of OAU to a total ban of such weapons. In a resolution on the plight of African children in situations of armed conflict, adopted by the same body at its meeting held at Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July 1996, the OAU decided to put a total ban on the production, use, stockpiling, sale and export of anti-personnel landmines in the continent, in order to protect the well-being of African children and peoples.

11. In April 1996, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe expressed support for a total ban on anti-personnel landmines. Similarly, on 13 May, the European Parliament called on all member States to ban unilaterally the production and use of anti-personnel mines and to destroy existing stocks. The Interparliamentary Union, which expressed its support for such a ban in 1995, presented an appeal signed by 250 parliamentarians to the President of the CCW Review Conference during the course of the recent session.

12. In May 1996, at a two-day seminar held at Managua and organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Nicaraguan Red Cross, Central American countries, among them Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, as well as Mexico, called for a total ban on the production, possession, transfer and use of anti-personnel landmines. The seminar, which was devoted to mines, mine clearance and victim rehabilitation, was attended by 75 officials, including the representatives of States in the region, United Nations agencies, the Organization of American States and non-governmental organizations. The seminar's recommendations were adopted by all the participating States.

13. At the 1996 meeting of the group of seven major industrialized countries held in France in June, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States issued a final communiqué calling upon all States to spare no effort in securing a global ban on the scourge represented by the proliferation and the indiscriminate use of anti-personnel landmines. The Group also welcomed the moratoria and bans already adopted by a number of countries on the production, use and export of these weapons.

14. The Organization of American States, which met at Panama City from 3 to 7 June 1996, adopted a resolution urging States to declare a moratorium on the production, use and transfer of all anti-personnel mines and to ratify the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its amended Protocol II. The resolution also provided for the opening of a register at the organization's General Secretariat to record information on existing stocks, the current mine-clearance situation and follow-up activities after each session of the General Assembly. The resolution also called for the establishment of an "anti-personnel-mine-free zone" in the Americas. A similar initiative, combining national renunciation of anti-personnel landmines with increased mine-clearance and victim assistance, was also taken by the Central American Parliament recently. This, it has been pointed out, could make Central America the first mine-infested region to free itself from such weapons.

D. Global initiatives

15. One of the first global initiatives to have been made since the Review Conference is Canada's decision to hold an international conference at Ottawa in September 1996. It is Canada's intention to bring together for a brainstorming strategy session those countries which have expressed support for a total ban on anti-personnel landmines. The conference will consider short- and medium-term steps that need to be taken to facilitate the goal of a global ban.

III. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

ARGENTINA

[Original: Spanish]

[20 March 1996]

1. The Argentine Republic is interested in all issues relating to the problem of mines and firmly believes that both the proliferation and the indiscriminate use of anti-personnel mines are problems important enough to merit multilateral consideration as a matter of priority at this time. Consequently, the Argentine Government has taken the following actions:

(a) The Argentine Republic has declared a five-year moratorium on the export, sale or transfer of all such anti-personnel mines, without exception. On 27 March 1995, it endorsed General Assembly resolution 48/75 by Executive Decree No. 435/95;

(b) On 9 August 1995, the Honourable Congress of the Nation ratified the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, signed by the Argentine Republic in 1981;

(c) Participation of the Republic in the four preparatory meetings for the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, which took place in Geneva in 1994 and 1995, and participation in the Review Conference, whose first two sessions were held from 25 September to 13 October 1995 in Vienna and from 15 to 19 January 1996 in Geneva;

(d) Co-sponsorship of General Assembly resolutions on this subject (48/7, 48/75 K, 48/79, 49/75 D, 49/79, 49/215, 50/70 O, 50/74, 50/82);

(e) Participation of the Republic in the International Meeting on Mine Clearance, which took place in Geneva from 5 to 7 July 1995;

(f) Offer to clear mines in the Malvinas (see document A/49/76). At the International Meeting on Mine Clearance, the Argentine Republic asked that the funds to be spent on mine clearance in the Malvinas should be considered a contribution to the Voluntary Trust Fund established pursuant to General

Assembly resolution 48/7 on assistance in mine clearance, adopted without a vote on 19 October 1993;

(g) Participation of the Republic in mine-clearance operations in Kuwait and Nicaragua in the framework of United Nations peacekeeping operations and through the Organization of American States;

(h) The Argentine Republic has submitted information on the status of mine clearance in Argentina to the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat for inclusion in the data bank which that Department is preparing on the subject;

(i) Likewise, Argentina has supplied information on personnel trained in each stage of mine-clearance activities for inclusion in the list being prepared by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs.

2. Argentina's policy on anti-personnel mines reflects its position on disarmament and arms control: on the one hand, it calls for restrictions on a type of weapon characterized by its particularly cruel impact on its victims, and, on the other, it reflects Argentina's concern about indiscriminate effects, which has led our country to adopt a policy of non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and missiles.

3. In Argentina's view, the international community must identify ways and means of cooperating and coordinating their efforts to stop this scourge, since the capacity of the United Nations system to solve this problem can be enhanced only through a well-planned, integrated and coordinated approach.

CANADA

[Original: English and French]

[26 January 1996]

1. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. André Ouellet, and Minister of Defence, Mr. David Collenette, today announced that Canada is declaring comprehensive unilateral moratoriums on the production, export and operational use of anti-personnel landmines. "Canadians are appalled by the ongoing tragedy caused by the indiscriminate use of anti-personnel landmines. With these moratoriums in place, Canada moves to the forefront of countries seeking a global ban on these weapons. We hope others will follow", said Mr. Ouellet. "Anti-personnel landmines sown at random with no regard for the laws of war have become a scourge of humanity. Canada has not been part of the problem, but we will certainly be part of the solution", stated Mr. Collenette.

2. These domestic measures complement Canada's ongoing diplomatic efforts to promote universal adherence to a strengthened Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. Canada is now at the forefront of a growing number of countries that have moved to restrict or declare moratoriums on the use, production and export of anti-personnel landmines.

3. Canada is working to increase restrictions on the use of landmines until these weapons are eliminated from the world's arsenals. The Canadian Forces have played a leading role in numerous demining operations around the world to eliminate the danger posed by anti-personnel landmines.

COLOMBIA

[Original: Spanish]

[15 March 1996]

1. At the request of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Government of Colombia has the honour to state its position on resolution 50/70 O, entitled "Moratorium on the export of anti-personnel landmines", adopted by the General Assembly on 12 December 1995.

2. The Government of Colombia believes that only a total ban on the use, manufacture, stockpiling, transfer and trade of all types of anti-personnel landmines can solve the human problem they represent.

3. While Colombia, in supporting resolution 50/70 O, welcomed the decision of some States to declare a moratorium on exports of anti-personnel landmines and urged States which had not yet done so to declare such a moratorium as soon as possible, it believes that this measure, though a step in the right direction, is insufficient to remedy the current situation.

4. A number of Governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals have put forward proposals designed to strengthen Protocol II of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects. These proposals seek to impose bans and new restrictions and conditions aimed at reducing the danger posed by anti-personnel landmines to the civilian population. From a humanitarian standpoint, each of these proposals has different features which must be carefully evaluated, with a view to determining whether any of these proposals, or a combination of them, would, in practice, have a significant impact on the human toll taken by anti-personnel landmines.

5. Nonetheless, if the States parties to the Convention fail to agree, at the Review Conference to be held in Geneva, on strict prohibitions and restrictions on existing landmines, this will only encourage the development of technologies for the production of mines with new mechanisms which, while they might reduce some risks, would not solve the problem. This reflects a lack of political will on the part of some States to adapt the production and trade of anti-personnel landmines, as well as their military use, to the humanitarian goals of the Convention.

6. The failure to impose a total ban on anti-personnel landmines and the authorization of those which contain, inter alia, self-destruct and self-neutralizing mechanisms would introduce selective and discriminatory criteria into Protocol II. It should be noted that the parties which support this

proposal are precisely the ones which would be in a position to produce and market mines equipped with the new technologies.

7. The attitudes manifested during the Review Conference show that: (a) States lack a sufficiently deep-rooted humanitarian awareness of the human, social and economic costs of anti-personnel landmines; (b) the complex, costly technical measures proposed would not solve the human problem caused by these mines; (c) many States would be unwilling to do without anti-personnel landmines or to replace the ones they already have because of the cost of modifying their arsenals; besides, it is likely that the production of mines with self-destruct and self-neutralizing mechanisms would lead to an increase in their use and trade.

8. In view of the facts presented at the Review Conference, the current situation of the 1980 Convention and its Protocol II should be analysed carefully with a view to considering more effective measures to reduce the number of victims of anti-personnel landmines.

9. As the Review Conference approaches the final stage of its work in Geneva, its outcome will be judged not only by the texts agreed upon, but also by its capacity to offer solutions to the human problems entailed by anti-personnel landmines, to help ensure strict compliance with the commitments made by States which are already parties to the Convention and to identify the mechanisms needed to prevent future catastrophes caused by these mines.

CUBA

[Original: Spanish]

[15 April 1996]

1. The Permanent Mission of Cuba wishes to emphasize that Cuba has not exported and does not export mines of any kind, and hopes that other countries will adopt the same position.

2. Cuba is taking an active part in the work of the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects; as for the possible amendments to the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II), Cuba is prepared to accept a total ban on the export of all types of mines to other States, whether or not they are parties to the Convention or to its Protocol II.

3. As it has stated in a number of international forums, Cuba uses anti-personnel landmines solely for national defence in case of imminent threat or foreign aggression; thus, their use is entirely defensive. Cuban military policy does not provide for the use of mines against the country's own people, much less against those of other States.

4. Cuba considers that the considerable problems with anti-personnel mines experienced by a number of third world countries are due in large part, if we limit ourselves to the most direct causes, to the unscrupulous export policies which have been extensively practised by several developed countries; these have made substantial profits from such operations and taken little account of the impact on the civilian populations of many countries.

5. Cuba strongly urges such States to take all necessary steps to end such policies as soon as possible and is prepared to give appropriately serious and thorough consideration to any measure which may be proposed for that purpose.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

[Original: Spanish]

[8 April 1996]

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/52 L of 15 December 1992, the Dominican Republic has not imported or transferred in 1994 or 1995 any of the weapons specified in Protocol II to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects. Our Government does not agree with the use of such weapons by any country.

FINLAND

[Original: English]

[8 May 1996]

Finland would like to bring to the attention of the Secretary-General that it has never exported any anti-personnel landmines. Thus, Finland in practice applies a moratorium on the export of all types of anti-personnel landmines.

This information is supplementary to the answer provided on the same issue by the European Union on behalf of its member States.

GERMANY

[Original: English]

[15 May 1996]

1. The Federal Cabinet decided on 11 January 1996 to indefinitely extend the German export moratorium on anti-personnel mines, which was due to expire in June 1997. The moratorium had entered into force on 1 July 1994 for an initial period of three years. On 16 April 1996, the Federal Government, as a next step, fully and unconditionally renounced the use of anti-personnel mines.

2. With these concrete steps, the Federal Government both contributed to the worldwide efforts to stop proliferation of anti-personnel mines and reaffirmed its support for General Assembly resolution 50/70 O entitled "Moratorium on the export of anti-personnel landmines", of which Germany was a sponsor. Both steps are consistent with the Federal Government's pursuit of a universal ban on anti-personnel mines.

3. They were also meant to encourage the States parties to the Landmine Protocol to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons of 1980 to put humanitarian considerations first and agree at the Review Conference in May this year on tighter restrictions and prohibitions both on the use and transfer of anti-personnel mines.

ICELAND

[Original: English]

[18 June 1996]

Exports of all products to be used for military purposes, including anti-personnel landmines, are subject to permits issued by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and External Trade. The Government of Iceland has declared its support for a comprehensive ban on the use of anti-personnel landmines and does not, accordingly, permit the export of such landmines from Iceland.

ISRAEL

[Original: English]

[15 July 1996]

1. The Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to bring to his attention the decision of the Government of Israel to extend the moratorium on export of anti-personnel landmines for a further period of three years.

2. Landmines laid during times of armed conflict and left after the conflict is over, have caused many tragedies for a large number of civilians. The proliferation of landmines has had tragic consequences, and it is estimated that there are more than 110 million undeclared landmines scattered over 69 countries, most of them in the developing world, causing death and injury on a daily basis.

3. The need to mobilize the international community to address this issue is widely recognized, and Israel has consistently supported the resolutions of the General Assembly calling for a moratorium on the export of anti-personnel mines.

4. Addressing the worldwide effort to reduce the damage caused by anti-personnel mines, the Government of Israel has, therefore, decided to extend the moratorium which it declared in July 1994 for a further period of three

years. During this period, Israel will continue to work with other interested parties in reviewing the establishment of a permanent regime for banning the transfer of anti-personnel mines.

5. Israel reiterates its readiness to share with other States its know-how, assistance and training in mine clearance.

6. The Government of Israel trusts that other States, especially in the Middle East region, will actively participate in the international efforts to eliminate the proliferation of anti-personnel landmines, and that they will also declare moratoriums on the export of such weapons.

ITALY*

[Original: English/French]

[28 May 1996]

Italy is pleased to provide the following common reply concerning resolution 50/70 O, entitled "Moratorium on the export of anti-personnel landmines", adopted by the General Assembly on 12 December 1995:

> "Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 48/75 K, 49/75 D and 50/70 O, which call upon States to declare a moratorium on the export of anti-personnel landmines, the European Union wishes to inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations that the Council of the European Union decided on 12 May 1995 that joint action should be taken regarding anti-personnel mines, one aspect of which is the declaration of such a moratorium in the following terms:
>
> "(a) A joint moratorium on the export of anti-personnel mines is being implemented by the member States in the light of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly;
>
> "(b) The moratorium includes a total ban on of the export to any destination of undetectable anti-personnel mines and of non-self-neutralizing anti-personnel mines, and a ban on the export of all other types of anti-personnel mines to States which have not yet ratified the 1981 Convention and its Protocol II;
>
> "(c) Member States wishing to do so may implement more broadly based moratoriums."

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* On behalf of the European Union and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe associated with it (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia), as well as of the associated countries Cyprus and Malta.

JORDAN

[Original: English]

[15 May 1996]

Jordan does not manufacture anti-personnel landmines or any kind of landmines. Jordan has never been involved in manufacture and/or export of landmines and it has no intention to do so in the future.

LIECHTENSTEIN

[Original: English]

[14 May 1996]

The Liechtenstein delegation to the CCW Review Conference, in its statement made on 22 April 1996, joined other countries in calling for a total ban on the export of anti-personnel landmines.

SINGAPORE

[Original: English]

[7 May 1996]

1. Singapore shares a deep concern expressed by many members of the international community regarding the humanitarian problems caused by anti-personnel landmines. The irresponsible and indiscriminate use of landmines poses a grave danger to civilian populations and is a serious threat to the safety and lives of personnel participating in United Nations humanitarian, peacekeeping and rehabilitation programmes and operations. Singapore therefore endorses the call by the General Assembly to increase mine-clearing efforts by the international community.

2. Singapore has decided to institute, with immediate effect, a two-year moratorium on the export of anti-personnel landmines that have no self-destruct or self-neutralizing mechanisms. In our view, anti-personnel landmines with no self-destruct or self-neutralizing mechanisms are the fundamental cause of the humanitarian problems caused by landmines, as they continue to inflict harm on civilian populations long after emplacement.

3. Singapore shares the view expressed by several countries during the fiftieth session of the General Assembly that it is not practical to have a blanket ban on all types of anti-personnel landmines, as many countries still see the need for anti-personnel landmines for legitimate self-defence purposes. Attempts to eliminate anti-personnel landmines altogether can be counter-productive, as some countries will regard such moves as a threat to their security. A lack of general support could also set back efforts to achieve a consensus on how to eliminate the humanitarian problems caused by anti-personnel

landmines. Singapore is committed to working with members of the international community to find a durable solution to this problem.

UKRAINE

[Original: Russian]

[5 June 1996]

1. Ukraine is observing the four-year moratorium on the export of anti-personnel landmines of all types that entered into force on 1 September 1995 in accordance with resolution 686 of the Cabinet of Ministers of 27 August 1995. Ukraine considers that the adoption by all countries of a comprehensive moratorium on the export of anti-personnel mines would make a positive contribution to the solution of the humanitarian crisis that has resulted from their use.

2. Pursuant to the aforementioned resolution, the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence has:

(a) Made a detailed inventory of anti-personnel landmines of all types;

(b) Established the conditions for their storage;

(c) Introduced permanent monitoring of orders for the sale or transfer of anti-personnel mines. Such orders are not filled.

3. Supporting the efforts of the international community to eliminate the threat that landmines pose to the world's population, Ukraine is actively working to reduce its stocks of anti-personnel landmines. The State programme regulating the use of conventional types of ammunition, adopted by a Government resolution of 20 January 1995, provides for the immediate elimination of anti-personnel landmines. Moreover, the possibility of adopting a decision to prohibit their production entirely has not been ruled out.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

[Original: English]

[29 August 1996]

1. The United States believes the international community should take strong action to reduce the threat posed to civilian populations by the indiscriminate use of anti-personnel landmines. Hence, on 11 November 1993, the United States formally introduced in the First Committee of the General Assembly a draft resolution calling for States to implement moratoriums on anti-personnel landmine exports. On 3 November 1994, the United States formally introduced in the First Committee a similar draft resolution, which called not only for export moratoriums, but for further international efforts to address the problem, with a view to the eventual elimination of anti-personnel landmines. On

6 November 1995, the United States formally introduced in the First Committee another draft resolution, which also called for export moratoriums and for further international efforts to address the problem, with a view to the eventual elimination of anti-personnel landmines. All three resolutions were approved in the Assembly by consensus. The United States will formally introduce a resolution in the First Committee at the fifty-first session of the Assembly urging Member States to support negotiation of a worldwide ban on anti-personnel landmines.

2. On 16 May 1996, President Clinton announced a new United States anti-personnel landmine policy. The initiative sets out a concrete path to a global ban on anti-personnel landmines but ensures that as the United States pursues this ban, essential United States military requirements and commitments to our allies will be protected:

(a) International ban. The United States will aggressively pursue an international agreement to ban use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel landmines with a view to completing the negotiations as soon as possible;

(b) Korea exception. The United States views the security situation on the Korean peninsula as a unique case and in the negotiation of this agreement will protect our right to use anti-personnel landmines there until alternatives become available or the risk of aggression has been removed;

(c) Ban on non-self-destructing anti-personnel landmines. Effective immediately, the United States will unilaterally undertake not to use, and to place in inactive stockpile status with intent to demilitarize by the end of 1999, all non-self-destructing anti-personnel landmines not needed to train personnel engaged in demining and countermining operations or defend the United States and its allies from armed aggression across the Korean demilitarized zone;

(d) Self-destructing anti-personnel landmines. Between now and the time an international agreement takes effect, the United States will reserve the option to use self-destructing/self-deactivating anti-personnel landmines, subject to the restrictions the United States has accepted in the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, in military hostilities to safeguard American lives and hasten the end of fighting;

(e) Programme to eliminate. The President has directed the Secretary of Defense to undertake a programme of research, procurement and other measures needed to eliminate the requirement for these exceptions and to permit both the United States and our allies to end reliance on anti-personnel landmines as soon as possible;

(f) Annual report. Beginning in 1999, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff will submit an annual report to the President and the Secretary of Defense outlining his assessment of whether there remains a military requirement for the exceptions noted above and a status report of the search for alternatives to anti-personnel landmines as defined immediately above;

(g) Expanding demining efforts. The Department of Defense will continue its research and development programme to accelerate development of improved mine detection and clearing technology and to share this improved technology with the international community. The United States Government will also expand its humanitarian demining programme to train and assist other countries in developing effective indigenous demining programmes, to include mine awareness.

3. On 12 February 1996, the United States enacted a one-year extension of its moratorium on the export of anti-personnel landmines, extending the moratorium until 1997 (Public Law 104-107, 12 February 1996). Since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 48/75 K of 16 December 1993 calling on States to adopt a moratorium on the export of anti-personnel landmines, we have approached States that either produce or export anti-personnel landmines, requesting that they also adopt export moratoriums.

4. Further steps are needed to address the scope of problems associated with indiscriminately placed landmines. Efforts to clear mines already laid and to call for the early entry into force of Protocol II, as amended, of the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects are critical elements of a comprehensive strategy.

5. The United States has humanitarian demining programmes in Asia, Africa, Central America, and now Bosnia. In the last year we have spent more than $30 million on global demining assistance, including a pledge of $12.5 million at the International Meeting on Mine Clearance.

6. As a full party to the Convention, the United States was very active in gaining agreement on proposals to strengthen restrictions in the Landmines Protocol. We were pleased that the Review Conference adopted an amended Landmines Protocol, which will, if widely observed, result in greater protection for civilians. However, we were disappointed that the amended Protocol did not include all the improvements proposed by the United States. In particular, it does not include a mechanism for compliance investigations; it does not impose a prohibition on non-detectable anti-tank mines that pose special risks to civilians or mine-clearance personnel; and it permits parties to defer compliance with certain technical provisions for up to nine years. We will continue to address these and other issues within the framework of the revised Protocol or in other forums.

7. In 1994, the United States and the United Kingdom developed a proposal for an anti-personnel landmine control programme. With the goal of the eventual elimination of anti-personnel landmines, as a first step, the programme would have imposed restrictions on the production, stockpiling and transfer of anti-personnel landmines, particularly anti-personnel landmines long-lived anti-personnel landmines, which can explode decades after emplacement. Over 30 countries attended a meeting, held at Budapest, on 29 and 30 June 1995, to discuss the joint United States/United Kingdom proposal. However, with President Clinton's 16 May announcement of the United States commitment to negotiate an international agreement on a comprehensive anti-personnel landmines ban, the United States and the United Kingdom have decided not to pursue the programme.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Communication for development programmes in the United Nations system

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted to the General Assembly in response to resolution 50/130 of 20 December 1995, adopted on the basis of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) entitled "Communication for development programmes in the United Nations system" (A/50/126-E/1995/20, annex) and the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) on that report (A/50/126/Add.1-E/1995/20/Add.1, annex).

2. The General Assembly, having considered the recommendations contained in the JIU report and the ACC comments thereon, by its resolution 50/130, inter alia, recognized the important role of communication for development programmes in the United Nations system in enhancing the transparency of system-wide coordination, in particular for the development of developing countries; encouraged the relevant organizations, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to use informal mechanisms such as round-table conferences, to improve communication for development programmes in the system; emphasized the need for the relevant organizations, agencies, funds and programmes to develop a systematic approach to capacity-building in the development of communication capacities, especially in the developing countries; invited the relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, as well as Governments and the regional commissions, to consider identifying focal points for the purpose of facilitating dialogue in the exchange of information

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on communication on issues related to development so as to strengthen coordination and international cooperation in this area; recognized the role of effective communication in disseminating the outcome and follow-up of major United Nations conferences and in ensuring the flow of such information to non-governmental organizations; and invited the Committee on Information, in accordance with its mandate, to consider this question at its forthcoming session. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in accordance with that agency's mandate in the field of communication, to report to the Assembly at its fifty-first session on the implementation of resolution 50/130.

3. The present report has been prepared on the basis of information and contributions provided by concerned organizations, agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions on their past, current and planned activities in the area of communication for development programmes, as well as on arrangements for cooperation and coordination of these activities with other organizations of the system.

II. OVERVIEW OF THE COORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES OF ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE FIELD OF COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

4. The organizations and agencies of the United Nations system welcomed General Assembly resolution 50/130 as a positive step towards a greater recognition within the United Nations family of the importance of communication for development. They have indicated that, in general, their activities and coordination arrangements in the area of communication for development are very much in line with the thrust of the resolution, as well as the recommendations contained in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the subject.

A. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

5. The consideration of the JIU report and the ACC comments thereon by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session has served to further clarify the concept of communication as a management function for development policies in general, humanitarian assistance and peace-building programmes, as well as for all major activities of the United Nations system. The activities of UNESCO in particular, as the agency with principal responsibility for the communication area within the United Nations system, concentrate on the consideration of communication as a conceptual notion per se and require therefore an autonomous approach. The specificity and the potential of communication as a dynamic two-way process involving active popular participation make it an indispensable element for all development programmes, where dispensers and beneficiaries of technical assistance become main actors working towards the success of development projects and activities.

6. During its one hundred forty-sixth session, the Executive Board of UNESCO expressed its support of the conclusions and recommendations contained in the JIU report, particularly those related to public information and communication functions, coordination between communication operations at Headquarters and in the field, the participation of the beneficiaries of development and two-way communication strategies.

7. The activities of UNESCO in the area under consideration are, to a great extent, defined by the functioning within the agency of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), established in 1980, and are guided by its Intergovernmental Council. The mandate of the Council includes, inter alia, planning and implementing the International Programme; reviewing and assessing achievements and defining the basic areas requiring increased international cooperation; reviewing ways and means for more effective participation of member States in IPDC; and managing the issues of financing the implementation of the Programme.

8. The main objectives of IPDC, as laid down by the UNESCO General Conference at its twenty-first session, in 1980, are:

(a) To assist the developing countries, at their request, in the elaboration and implementation of their information and communication development plans, as well as in the identification of needs and priority areas;

(b) To promote in developing countries the creation or extension of infrastructures for the different communication sectors in order to increase their production of endogenous programmes and to promote improved international exchange of information;

(c) To carry out an analysis of technical and financial needs and resources in the fields of information and communication at the national and international levels;

(d) To provide consultative and advisory services to developing countries in the field of communication development;

(e) To ensure better coordination among the countries interested in the development of communication;

(f) To promote viable regional institutional arrangements for assistance to the Programme in pursuing its objectives;

(g) To obtain public and private funds to support communication development projects;

(h) To support, particularly among developing countries, the conclusion of arrangements on the exchange of information, and on cooperation and co-production between media organizations and journalists' associations;

(i) To take measures to promote the awareness of all parties concerned (be they developing countries, non-governmental organizations or other public or private bodies active in this field), of the important role that communication

plays in the development process, thus contributing to mobilizing the technical and financial resources needed for pursuing the goals and objectives of the Programme.

9. Since its establishment in 1980, the Intergovernmental Council of IPDC has approved 569 projects funded with almost $30 million from the special account. During its sixteenth session, in January 1996, the Council decided to give priority, in its future activities, to regional and subregional projects, and reaffirmed its support of projects aiming, in particular at improving the quality of communication for development; promoting freedom of the press, pluralism and independence of the media; promoting democracy and human rights; supporting activities for broader participation of women in the media; and developing community media etc. The Council decided to dedicate the next thematic debate, at its seventeenth session, in 1997, to the questions of the role, crisis and problems of the media in societies in transition and the role of freedom of the press and independence of the media in democracy.

10. At its 1996 session, the Council approved the amount of $2.3 million from the special account for the financing of 47 interregional, regional and national projects. The funds of the special account consist of voluntary contributions of member States.

11. One of the major activities of UNESCO for the near future that falls within the context of the recommendations contained in the JIU report, as well as of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 50/130, will be the sixth Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development, to be held at Harare, from 2 to 5 September 1996. It will focus on a specific country's development requirements, priorities, modalities, experiences and perspectives and seek to apply to the country situation and needs the combined experience of several agencies in the field of communication for development. The Round Table is expected to examine and discuss communication development projects that are managed at the national level by both public and private sectors, as well as by any of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system. The projects should include those that aim to catalyse development in any sector or combination thereof (agricultural development and food production, health, environment, education, population issues, children etc.) that use print, radio, television or traditional media, and that seek to catalyse changes at the grass-roots level, among people themselves, so that development takes root at the very heart of society. UNESCO is of the view that the benefits accruing from such a round table, as well as patterns of other cooperative experiences, will point the way to further inter-agency cooperation and open up possibilities for a broader pooling of agency resources, including financial support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and donor agencies and countries. The lessons learned and the methodology used in carrying out this Round Table could be applied region-wide to countries of similar socio-economic and cultural background, and eventually to other regions of the world. The results of the Harare Round Table will be brought to the attention of the General Assembly by UNESCO at the time of the consideration of the present report.

B. United Nations Secretariat

12. The activities of the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat, as the focal point for the public information tasks of the United Nations, are guided by the Committee on Information, in accordance with its General Assembly mandate. Among the core issues before the Committee on Information, since its inception in 1979, have been the strengthening of the communication capabilities of developing countries and the improvement of their communication technology and information infrastructure, particularly through training and information dissemination programmes. These issues, as highlighted also by General Assembly resolution 50/130, were specifically addressed in the two resolutions on questions relating to information, entitled "Information in the service of humanity" and "United Nations public information policies and activities", adopted by the Committee during its eighteenth session, in May 1996.

13. Also at its May 1996 session, the Committee on Information renewed its support for the continuation of the Department of Public Information/UNESCO-sponsored regional seminars on promoting pluralistic and independent media. Since 1991, four such seminars have been organized, namely, for the African media (Windhoek, 1991); for the Asian media (Alma-Ata, 1992); for the Latin American and Caribbean media (Santiago, Chile, 1994); and for the Arab media (Sana'a, 1996). The seminars were organized with the financial support of UNDP and involved other organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, as well as Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and national development agencies. The next regional seminar for the European media will be organized by the Department, in close cooperation with UNESCO, in 1997.

14. Another area of the Department's activities of continuing importance is its training programme for broadcasters and journalists from developing countries, established by the General Assembly in 1980, to supplement national, regional and international training possibilities. The programme has since provided young journalists from developing countries with an opportunity to gain professional experience in covering the work of the General Assembly. During a period of six weeks, participants receive in-service training in public information activities, undertake professional work assignments, visit major media organizations and serve as United Nations correspondents covering meetings and events on behalf of their home media organizations. The Department's modest ability to increase the annual number of participants from all developing countries has been met, on many occasions, with the financial support of non-governmental organizations.

15. The Department of Public Information has played a pivotal role in the promotion of the recent cycle of major United Nations conferences on development issues and their follow-up. For these purposes, the Department has developed communication strategies and multimedia information programmes. Promotion materials on the outcome of each conference have been produced and distributed worldwide, primarily to media and non-governmental organizations. The issues related to the conferences and their follow-up continue to be included in the Department's ongoing information products, such as radio and television programmes and print products, and are being promoted by the United Nations information centres functioning in 68 countries throughout the world. In order

to develop and coordinate joint information activities for promoting follow-up to the conferences, special inter-agency task forces have been created by the Department. During 1996, these task forces met to coordinate joint information activities on poverty, women and human settlements as a follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). It is also planned that, in 1997, a task force will meet on information activities relating to the five-year review of progress made since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. In its capacity as the secretariat of the Joint United Nations Information Committee (JUNIC), the Department ensures that the information activities in follow-up to the conferences are reported to and discussed by JUNIC at its annual meetings.

16. The activities of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development in the area of communication for development have the objectives of strengthening the role of the United Nations as a forum for debate and consensus building in the economic and social areas and increasing awareness of the work of the Organization. They are mostly in the area of support to intergovernmental processes. The main constituencies targeted are the representatives of Member States at Headquarters and in the capitals, as well as non-governmental organizations as representatives of civil society. The Department is selecting and combining communication channels so as to maximize its reach to those audiences. Thus, its main products include a comprehensive on-line public-access site on the Internet, paper-based newsletters and publications, lectures, presentations and demonstrations.

17. The Department's Web site is designed to meet the information needs of delegations and participants: it is providing advanced information and texts of the parliamentary documentation of the economic and social bodies, and numerous links to other national and international sources of information. To reach those with no high-level Internet services like the Web, the Department maintains a gopher site with a comprehensive record of the proceedings of major conferences and other forums, and is in the process of developing an electronic document delivery service that will allow subscribers to receive automatically through e-mail electronic copies of documents as they are released. Furthermore, the information is systematically redisseminated through the networks of the members of the Association for Progressive Communication, which permits reaching the areas of Africa and Latin America where Internet is not yet widespread. There are currently half a million requests a year for the information posted by the Department.

18. The Department publishes eight newsletters on its main programme areas, such as sustainable development, women and social development, with a combined target readership of 30,000, primarily government officials and non-governmental organizations. Other activities include servicing the intergovernmental bodies to improve access to United Nations information; participating in the formulation of secretariat policies and strategies for electronic dissemination of information on the promotion of and follow-up to major international conferences and events, and on publications; and organizing numerous outreach events in conjunction with the main intergovernmental meetings it services. The Department is closely collaborating with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other partners in the development of common or compatible

electronic stores of information to track the progress in sustainable development.

19. Among other activities of the United Nations in the area of communication for development is the global dissemination by the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis of a wide range of development data and information in a variety of formats from print to CD-ROMs. The most notable area of activity is the Population Information Network (POPIN). During the past two years, the Coordinating Unit of POPIN located in the Population Division of the Department, has used the Internet to vastly expand the potential audience for population information and to rapidly, effectively and inexpensively disseminate information worldwide. Building on this success, POPIN is continuing to promote and facilitate the use of new information technologies to provide greater international access to regional and national population information. A major emphasis is put on capacity-building to enable the collection, analysis and dissemination of information by all countries and regions. POPIN thus serves as a communication structure for improving the interaction among the various actors in the population dimension of development.

C. United Nations funds and programmes

20. The United Nations Development Programme took the initiative in forging a new approach to communication for development when it adopted the New Corporate Communication and Advocacy Strategy in July 1995. This Strategy provides, inter alia, for UNDP to work closely with the Joint United Nations Information Committee at Headquarters and for the resident representatives/resident coordinators to play an enhanced role in communication at the country level. Through the role of the resident representative as the resident coordinator, UNDP, with the support of United Nations information centres where they are present, leads the system-wide effort at the country level to promote developmental and humanitarian programmes.

21. In spite of financial constraints, UNDP has placed additional emphasis on and allocated resources to communication, advocacy and information that address and interface with audiences in programme countries. Each of the 135 country offices is in the process of appointing an officer to be responsible for public affairs. The job description in each case emphasizes communication with benefiting communities, grass-roots organizations and local non-governmental organizations, as well as with national and foreign media and other partners. To give substance to the focus of the Advocacy Strategy at the country level, a series of training seminars is taking place in each region, attended by resident representatives, their deputies, national public affairs officers, and representatives of United Nations Information Centres, non-governmental organizations, the media and other development allies as participants or as resource persons.

22. At UNDP Headquarters, the Division of Public Affairs has been restructured in line with the New Corporate Communication and Advocacy Strategy, which resulted in gearing staff responsibilities more closely to supporting country offices in serving local audiences and constituencies.

23. In addition to traditional publishing, information and media relations, the weekly "Flash!" is produced as a medium to link UNDP internally throughout the world, as well as for the purpose of communicating with other agencies, non-governmental organizations, Governments and partners. Web home pages, databases, e-mail and other technological innovations are constantly being developed to multiply communication opportunities.

24. In December 1995, an initiative was jointly sponsored by the leaders of UNDP and the Department of Public Information aimed at strengthening collaboration between the Programme and the Department and overcoming common public information challenges. As a follow-up activity to this initiative, a new UNDP/Department of Public Information working group on United Nations Information Centres and public information matters has been established, which meets once a month. The working group was found to be a practical mechanism for reviewing common challenges that confront the integrated United Nations Information Centre offices, as well as specific country or regional situations that require special attention.

25. Within the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Policy Coordination and External Relations Service is the focal point for communication with regard to the organization's development activities. It ensures a wide dissemination of information on activities at the intergovernmental level, as well as on activities carried out by the secretariat in conjunction with technical cooperation for development. The Service publishes a quarterly, entitled UNCTAD Bulletin, which includes the above information, as well as information leaflets and handbooks on the work of the organization. UNCTAD also produces a guide on technical cooperation programmes entitled "Meeting the developing challenge".

26. Information on the activities of UNCTAD in the area of assistance to developing countries is made available to the media, as well as to the public at large, through its press releases and notes to correspondents. A number of specific technical cooperation projects, such as TRAINNAR, Trade Efficiency, TRAINFORTRADE, Ports Development, Insurance, Debt Monitoring and others, have their own information bulletins and leaflets containing updated reports on the type of activities undertaken. In addition, the UNCTAD Web site contains information on specific projects and recent developments at both the secretariat and intergovernmental levels.

27. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has consistently given prominence to the role of communication and social mobilization in its development programmes. The Fund was a founding member of the Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development and continues to actively participate in its deliberations. It has also developed several capacity-building projects in the area of communication for the benefit of developing countries, often with special donor funding. In order to improve and facilitate inter-agency cooperation in this field within the United Nations system, UNICEF has proposed to JUNIC the establishment of a subcommittee on communication for development, which, in its view, could become an appropriate forum for detailed follow-up to General Assembly resolution 50/130.

28. The United Nations Environment Programme has initiated and maintained a number of activities to facilitate environmental data and information exchange for decision makers throughout the world. The main mechanisms for carrying out these activities are, in particular, INFOTERRA, Environment and Natural Resources Information Networking (ENRIN), the Global Resource Information Database (GRID) and UNEPNet.

29. INFOTERRA, the Global Environmental Information Exchange Network, is operating through 171 government-designated national focal points; a network of 8,000 sources of information, including national and international institutions, non-governmental organizations, industrial and commercial enterprises, academic institutions and experts; 34 special sectoral sources, and 10 regional service centres. INFOTERRA processes more than 50,000 queries per year.

30. The Environment and Natural Resources Information Networking is a programme instituted to promote the development of national and subregional capacities in data and database management to support environmental assessments and reporting in institutions of developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The programme is operational in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Eastern Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean.

31. The Global Resource Information Database, a decentralized network of centres, is providing and analysing geographic data sets, focusing on environmental and natural resources issues. Currently, there are 11 GRID centres worldwide, which have the ability, expertise, technology and mandate to prepare, analyse and present data and information about the Earth's resources as the basis for reliable environmental assessments.

32. UNEPNet is an integrated and open information system linking all UNEP information resources (INFOTERRA, GRID, International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals, United Nations Information Centres, Library etc. and UNEP national focal points). The system includes connection to the world at large through operational Internet, as well as World Wide Web connections through the MERCURE satellite system.

33. UNEP has no field representation and therefore has no informal communication mechanisms at the country level. Nevertheless, through its system of regional offices for Europe, Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America and West Asia, it provides a continuous base for informal consultations and cooperation with other organizations and agencies of the United Nations system in the respective regions. UNEP has assigned the Assistant Executive Director for Environmental Information and Assessment to serve as the focal point for facilitating dialogue in the exchange of information on communication issues related to development.

34. In April 1995, UNEP and UNDP signed an agreement regarding environmental information dissemination. The memorandum of understanding between the two organizations was designed to link, at the national level, the UNEP INFOTERRA network and the UNDP Sustainable Development Network Programme, enabling both networks to better deliver and exchange environmental information. The agreement will help to ensure cost-effective and efficient use of the limited United Nations funds and will enhance coordination. It will also enable UNEP

and UNDP to collaborate and share information systems and data, as well as to launch joint information projects in several countries (Cameroon, Nicaragua, Pakistan and Tunisia).

D. Regional commissions

35. Recognizing the importance of communication for the coordination of United Nations activities at the regional level, the regional commissions have developed a number of activities aimed at fostering better communication with their member States, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, academic and business communities, as well as the media.

36. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) has established close cooperation in the area of communication for development with such intergovernmental organizations of the region as the European Union, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Council of Europe, as well as with subregional economic groupings. The ECE work on trade facilitation enables great savings on paperless trade for the wide range of its actual and potential users within and outside the ECE region. To develop appropriate software, the Commission participates in the work of the European Board for Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) standardization. The training of experts in the implementation of Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (EDIFACT) standards has also been pursued. A generic software tool for implementation of EDIFACT has been developed to cover the transition period until commercial software is available.

37. Electronic information exchange is used for the exchange, collection, dissemination and monitoring of statistical data and assistance to national statistical offices. The ECE has developed the generic statistical message (GESMES), allowing the exchanging parties to minimize the size of files transmitted through communication networks. At present, the Commission is developing tools and applications enabling the use of GESMES by international and national statistical offices. Some of the results of the ECE work, in particular the Economic Survey for Europe, is available on the Internet, and is open for access by the local missions of member Governments.

38. To cover a wide range of public information activities, the Commission is applying a multifold approach through regular briefings to its constituencies, some of which are available on the ECE home page on the Internet; press releases, which are sent to the Department of Public Information Bulletin Board and distributed also through the Internet; electronic data exchange etc. A list of Internet addresses of major media contacts is currently being established. Round table discussions are being organized on a regular basis in conjunction with the work of ECE intergovernmental meetings. Thus, for instance, the Round Table on Sustainable Industrial Development, held during the fifty-first session of the Commission in April 1996, gathered the chief executive officers of major international companies and has resulted in proposals concerning further strengthening of interaction with the business community.

39. ECE is continually updating the study on the telecommunication industry, entitled Growth and Structural Change, which was initially published in 1987. The Commission has been cooperating closely with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in Europe Telecom 92 (Budapest), Asia Telecom 93 (Singapore), Africa Telecom 94 (Cairo) and Telecom 95 (Geneva).

40. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has elaborated a work plan in the area, which foresees the inclusion of information and communication technologies in the activities of the Commission as an important means to make known within the ECLAC region its diverse programmes and activities. To bring the product elaborated within this plan to users, the home page of ECLAC has been created. Progress in the accomplishment of the work plan will lead to concentrating on the coordination of the management of information resources of the Committee on Management of Information, the chairman of which will serve as the focal point of ECLAC in the area of communication for development.

E. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

41. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), being a pioneer in the field of communication for development, whose experience in rural communication has been recognized system-wide, has over the years applied a series of innovative methodologies for the information, motivation and training of rural populations. They include, inter alia, participatory rural radio, video for farmer training, and the use of traditional media for changing attitudes and behaviour. At present, it is addressing the appropriate use of new information technologies to support research, extension, communication and training activities to promote sustainable development. Recognizing that communication is an essential ingredient for sustainable development, related activities are now being implemented in the Research, Extension and Training Division of the Sustainable Development Department, while previously they were carried out by the Information Division. This confirms the substantive, technical nature of communication for development, which has as its objectives increasing people's participation and sharing of knowledge and skills, separate and distinct from public information activities. Within this new institutional framework, the unit responsible for communication for development activities provides communication support to all the substantive programmes of FAO. It emphases building up national capacity in communication for development and provides policy advice, technical assistance and training to member countries through field programmes. It also covers contacts at the inter-agency level.

42. The need for coordination of policies and exchange of experiences has been met by FAO through an informal network consisting of development communication specialists from United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, universities and the private sector, who meet at the round-table conferences sponsored on a rotating basis by the participating institutions. The previous round table was organized by the Worldview International Foundation in Thailand in January 1995. The next one will be convened by UNESCO in September 1996. FAO fully supports the recommendation contained in the JIU report that funding agencies such as the World Bank and UNDP should participate in the round-table conferences on a more regular basis.

F. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

43. To provide wider access to information on its programmes and activities, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has set up a home page on the Internet, which has resulted in more efficient and effective dissemination of substantive information to Member States and other interested parties. UNIDO has also developed a systematic approach to providing training to end-users, such as the Industrial and Technological Information Bank, national focal points and the investment business community, information specialists, research and development staff and others, on the use of the Internet as a source of industry-related and business information at the regional level.

44. The training programmes are designed with capacity-building and the multiplier effect in mind and are implemented in close cooperation with UNESCO. So far, training programmes have been held in Moscow (May 1995) - for the Commonwealth of Independent States; Prague (September 1995) - for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe; Santa Fe de Bogota (September 1995) - for Latin American countries; and Pretoria (February 1996) - for some African countries. This approach will be extended to other regions in cooperation with the relevant regional commissions. To facilitate dialogue in the exchange of information on communication regarding issues related to development, UNIDO has supported the initiative of ITU in launching an inter-agency project on universal access to basic communication and information services.

III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

45. The foregoing review of system-wide activities and coordination arrangements in the area of communication for development clearly indicates that the programmes and funds of the United Nations system have paid considerable attention to this key dimension of success in development programmes. A variety of pragmatic and working arrangements has been devised for cooperation and coordination among various parts of the system in this field. The most notable among these is the mechanism of inter-agency round tables, such as the one being organized by UNESCO in Zimbabwe. In addition, there are bilateral arrangements such as those between UNEP and UNDP to establish linkages between their information networks on environment and sustainable development. System-wide inter-agency mechanisms are also in place to promote coordination, including, most notably, the Joint United Nations Information Committee.

46. At the country level, the resident coordinator system as well as JUNIC field arrangements provide readily available mechanisms for promoting the integration of communication in development programmes and projects. However, as the JIU report on the subject (A/50/126) and the ACC comments on it (A/50/126/Add.1) suggest, a number of lacunae and gaps still remain. Some of the steps that could be taken to address them are outlined below:

Recommendation 1. The system needs to develop a common working definition and understanding of communication for development at the country level. This could be facilitated by the resident coordinator system in close collaboration with JUNIC arrangements in the field and should take fully into account the

results of the round tables on communication and development. Such a common working definition should provide a basis for defining more clearly the goals, processes and technologies that need to be pursued and shared among the concerned United Nations agencies and other development partners, with a view to maximizing the impact of development programmes at all levels.

Recommendation 2. The mechanism of informal round tables on communication for development should be used more systematically with the full participation of the international financial institutions at the country level. The experience gained on both substantive and methodological aspects should be disseminated more widely within and among regions, with a view to enhancing the application of communications as an essential tool for development.

Recommendation 3. Organizations of the United Nations system should assist Governments in carrying out careful analysis and assessment of the impact of new and appropriate technologies on and innovative methods for communication for development, with a view to developing sound application of such technologies and methods. Coordinated support and assistance for such analysis and assessment should be provided under the auspices of ACC through appropriate inter-agency mechanisms such as the ad hoc task forces for the follow-up to major United Nations conferences. The results achieved and experience gained should be brought to the attention of ACC and, through it to relevant intergovernmental bodies, as appropriate.

Recommendation 4. Resource mobilization remains an important objective for capacity-building in the area of communication for development programmes. This should be pursued as an integral component of the mobilization of resources for development programmes in general, as well as for humanitarian activities.

Recommendation 5. With respect to coordination at the Headquarters level, inter-agency mechanisms established for the coordination of programmes and operational activities, as well as for the follow-up to United Nations conferences, should incorporate the communication dimension in their efforts to coordinate the work of the United Nations system. This would involve the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions, the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development, the Inter-Agency Meeting on Women, their subsidiary bodies, JUNIC, the Information Systems Coordination Committee, as well as the inter-agency task forces established for the coordinated follow-up to major United Nations conferences.

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STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES OR REGIONS

Assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 50/58 G of 20 December 1995 on assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia, the General Assembly noted with concern that the political instability and the absence of central authority that continued to characterize Somalia provided a breeding ground for new emergencies. The Assembly reaffirmed the importance it attached to the need for effective coordination and cooperation among the United Nations agencies and their partners since the withdrawal of the United Nations Operation in Somalia in March 1995 and renewed its appeal to all the Somali parties concerned to terminate hostilities and to engage in a national reconciliation process that would allow for the transition from relief to reconstruction and development.

2. The General Assembly called upon the Secretary-General to continue to mobilize international humanitarian, rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance for Somalia and, in view of the critical situation in the country, to apprise the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1996 of the progress made in the implementation of the resolution and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-first session. As requested by the Assembly, an oral report was delivered to the Council at its substantive session of 1996 by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs. The present report has been prepared in response to the above request by the Assembly.

II. RELIEF AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES

A. General

3. Since the last report to the General Assembly on assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia (A/50/447), steady gains in the humanitarian situation have been achieved in certain parts of Somalia. Other areas of the country have, however, experienced increasingly high levels of vulnerability and hardship. With a few exceptions, northern Somalia has witnessed conditions conducive to rehabilitation and reconstruction activities. At the same time, the humanitarian and security situation in most of the southern portion of the country has worsened. The survival of an important segment of the population, in particular internally displaced persons, women, children and other vulnerable or disadvantaged groups, remains dependent on the provision of relief assistance. Throughout the country, inter-clan fighting, lawlessness and the absence of a recognized national government are major factors hindering the flow of humanitarian assistance and thus slowing the pace of recovery in more stable regions and threatening a recurrence of tragedy in other areas.

4. In spite of continuing insecurity, political instability and related operational difficulties, United Nations agencies and their international and Somali partners have succeeded in delivering substantial emergency and rehabilitation assistance to affected populations in the country. While funding constraints and security conditions have affected many programmes in a negative way, United Nations agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross

(ICRC) and non-governmental organizations in Somalia continue to provide food support as well as assistance in health services, clean water supply, education and other fields. Currently, 13 United Nations agencies and organizations are carrying out humanitarian assistance activities throughout the country. The vital presence and efforts of over 50 international non-governmental organizations have kept them at the forefront of relief and rehabilitation interventions in Somalia. More than 10 Somali non-governmental organizations, including three women's organizations, are now working as reliable humanitarian partners of the United Nations agencies in the country.

5. The complex situation prevailing in Somalia has led United Nations agencies and their partners to retain a high degree of flexibility and to adopt creative approaches for the implementation of their activities. Assistance programmes have focused on working directly with Somali communities, whenever possible, to promote sustainability and foster a sense of local ownership. In the absence of a recognized national government, United Nations agencies have continued to exercise a pragmatic approach to interacting with de facto local authorities present in areas of operation. However, the level of collaboration extended by the different Somali administrative structures has varied considerably, with some entities exhibiting a more cooperative attitude than others vis-à-vis the efforts of the international humanitarian community. Humanitarian agencies have experienced serious obstructionist actions on the part of some local authorities over the past year.

6. The efforts of the United Nations and its partners over the past year have played a major role in preventing the country from slipping back into an acute emergency phase. Also, in certain parts of the country, notably the north of Somalia, progress has been made towards reconstructing local economies and infrastructure for social services. However, indicators pointing to a potential deterioration in the humanitarian situation have accumulated since early 1996, particularly in southern Somalia, and, by the middle of the year, United Nations agencies were uncertain how much longer a renewed humanitarian crisis could be held back under prevailing conditions. The health and nutritional status of vulnerable populations has worsened in some parts of the country, reversing to some extent previous gains made in those areas. Food shortages and insecurity have resulted in new population displacements in southern Somalia, creating the risk of a back-flow of Somali refugees into neighbouring countries.

7. A major constraint facing humanitarian operations in the country has been the ever diminishing donor resources available for Somalia. In response to the 1995 United Nations consolidated inter-agency appeal for Somalia, a total of $28.6 million was contributed by the end of 1995, meeting only 30.7 per cent of the appeal's revised requirements. While those contributions have been supplemented by the core resources of United Nations agencies, the total amount of available funding has not approached the level of need in the country. Political instability and the absence of progress towards national reconciliation have made donors more reluctant to provide funding and resources for Somalia. Ironically, it is the climate of instability and insecurity that is largely responsible for keeping Somalia in a high-risk situation, thus increasing humanitarian assistance requirements for the country.

8. Concerned by the conditions affecting humanitarian workers and the various operational difficulties faced in Somalia, the Inter-agency Standing Committee decided to dispatch a high-level inter-agency mission to review humanitarian operations and propose ways to improve the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of assistance programmes in the country. The mission, which was carried out from 1 to 7 February 1996, was led by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and consisted of representatives of nine United Nations agencies and two consortia of international non-governmental-organizations. The mission visited five areas in the country and held consultations with Somali authorities and representatives of the international community. The mission concluded that the continued presence of United Nations agencies in Somalia was essential, not least to prevent any possible recurrence of a major humanitarian crisis. It recommended that the United Nations system, in partnership with Somalia counterparts and non-governmental organizations, formulate a coherent humanitarian programme for Somalia, which, given the varying conditions in different areas of the country, should be a combination of humanitarian and developmental approaches. The mission made a number of additional recommendations relating to resource mobilization, coordination and operational matters. On 19 April 1996, the Inter-agency Standing Committee endorsed the mission's recommendations and mandated the Department of Humanitarian Affairs with the task of monitoring and reporting on their implementation.

9. Significant steps have been made by the United Nations in-country team towards implementation of the recommendations of the February 1996 mission. Regarding the proposed United Nations humanitarian programme for Somalia, the United Nations agencies at the country level have embarked on an inter-agency analytical and consultative process with a view to defining and reaching consensus on the role of the United Nations in the country over the medium-term, reflecting a common system-wide vision and outlining a set of broad objectives and strategies. It is envisaged that the process will result in a forward-looking United Nations inter-agency strategic planning and consolidated resource mobilization document for Somalia, utilizing a new approach of joint programming for humanitarian and rehabilitation needs at the regional level, in accordance with the recommendations of the inter-agency mission and in an attempt to bolster donor commitment to Somalia. To that end, work is under way with the assistance of an expert currently in Nairobi to formulate the future humanitarian programme for Somalia, which will be reflected in the consolidated appeal for 1997.

B. Food security

10. The August 1995 gu (main) season harvest in Somalia was very poor, owing in large part to insufficient rains and pest infestation. Production of the main staple crops reached 171,000 tons, representing only about half of the 1994 gu harvest. The output of the January 1996 der (secondary) harvest was slightly above average, with about 110,000 tons harvested. However, the unfavourable main 1995 harvest had a negative impact on the food security status of populations in many parts of the country through the first half of 1996. The first-phase assessment of the 1996 gu season indicated a number of positive signs for a reasonable harvest overall, but it was too early to determine to

what extent flooding and possible insect and bird infestations in some agricultural areas would have a negative effect on the harvest.

11. Good crop production alone will not ensure adequate food security for the country. The general population's lack of income-earning opportunities and low purchasing power, combined with increasing prices and decreased availability of basic goods on local markets, have aggravated the increasingly fragile food security situation in Somalia. Insecurity and political instability continue to have a major impact on the overall food supply situation in Somalia. The closure of the country's main seaport at Mogadishu since October 1995 and the disruption of commercial trade flows and transportation routes within the country are among the major factors eroding the population's adequate access to food.

12. The impact of the difficult food security situation in southern Somalia came to a head in May 1996 when populations in the Bay, Bakool and Juba valley regions started moving to Kismayo and along the border with Kenya. In response, United Nations agencies in collaboration with non-governmental organizations and donor representatives and in consultation with ICRC prepared a joint plan of action aimed at halting the movement of populations out of those regions and encouraging displaced persons to return to their home communities. As part of the plan, which involved the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and several international non-governmental organizations, relief food and essential drugs were provided to vulnerable groups, seeds and tools were distributed to farming families, special feeding centres were set up and vaccination campaigns were conducted. A second phase of the plan of action for the Juba valley will attempt to strengthen household food security through longer-term agricultural and other interventions in order to discourage future population movements and reduce dependency on external assistance. Similar programmes combining relief and rehabilitation assistance are being carried out in other areas of Somalia.

13. The overall goal of the WFP food aid programme in Somalia is to contribute to the restoration of the country's traditional economic base through support to grass-roots rehabilitation and development-oriented initiatives. Another goal of the programme is to improve food security and the nutritional status of the most vulnerable groups. In order to achieve those goals, WFP supports a wide range of community-based activities in the agriculture, health and education sectors, among others. WFP assistance is also utilized for the promotion of small-scale income-generating schemes, the integration of demobilized militia into civil society and the resettlement of refugees.

14. Between January 1995 and March 1996, WFP distributed a total of 34,176 tons of food aid in Somalia, of which about 85 per cent went through rehabilitation projects and 15 per cent as relief assistance to internally displaced persons, orphans, hospital patients and other disadvantaged populations. An average of 165,000 people per month received WFP food assistance, mainly through food-for-work projects for farmers, local health workers, teachers and other groups. Between January 1995 and May 1996, ICRC distributed a further 3,354 tons of relief food aid to vulnerable groups in Somalia. As part of

project implementation in the southern and central parts of Somalia, WFP procures locally grown cereal in surplus food-producing areas, at appropriate periods of the agricultural cycle, for distribution to beneficiaries in areas facing food deficits. Funds generated under the WFP food monetization programme support agricultural rehabilitation activities and serve to improve household food security.

15. The WFP Food Security Assessment Unit continues to monitor, collect and disseminate data on agricultural production, food availability, market prices, nutritional status of populations and other factors affecting the food security situation in Somalia. Since its establishment in January 1995, the extensive gu and der crop assessment exercises and other surveillance and information-collection activities of the Unit have enabled the aid community to have access to quantitative and qualitative information on food-insecure areas, thereby facilitating timely interventions. In the absence of civil service structures in Somalia, the surveillance activities, early warning information and critical analysis provided by the Food Security Assessment Unit remain crucial. The Unit works in close collaboration with United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and donors, as well as the Famine Early Warning System of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). As part of its mandate, the Global Information and Early Warning System of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) monitors the crop and food supply situation in Somalia continuously and, through its regular publications "Foodcrops and Shortages", "Special Africa Report", and special alerts and reports, keeps the international community informed on the situation in the country. An FAO/WFP crop and food supply assessment mission is planned for Somalia during July/August 1996.

C. Agriculture, livestock and fisheries

16. To improve the country's ability to feed itself, the provision of agricultural inputs and plant protection and veterinary services to food-producing communities remains essential. Lack of crop protection activity is among the most serious factors negatively affecting the food supply and food security situation in Somalia. During 1995, an estimated 40 per cent of crops was lost to pests. Livestock production, the backbone of the national economy, has also experienced difficulties owing largely to limited veterinary services.

17. Owing to lack of funding, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been unable to carry out its primary crop-protection mandate in Somalia adequately, with only limited activities having been undertaken over the past year. FAO operations in Somalia are expected to start again following the approval of a project for emergency assistance to farmers affected by the conflict, funded by the Organization's Technical Cooperation Programme. The objectives of the assistance are twofold and include the coordination of emergency interventions implemented by humanitarian organizations in relation to the assessment of evolving agricultural sector requirements and the provision of basic agricultural inputs. As northern Somalia is a traditional breeding ground for locusts, an FAO specialist based at Hargeisa continues to monitor and survey the locust situation in the region, in collaboration with the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa. A

project to provide emergency assistance to farmers affected by the conflict in Somalia was approved by FAO in June 1996. Project activities include the distribution of cereal and vegetable seeds and support to small-scale plant protection efforts. Additional agricultural inputs carried over from previous FAO projects were distributed to destitute farmers. In May 1996, the Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) started a livestock vaccination campaign in the Mandera area of Kenya near the Somali border with the involvement of FAO, in order to minimize the spread of rinderpest disease in the area, and similar action is required on the Somali side of the border.

18. In an effort to stimulate and promote subsistence food production for vulnerable farming families, WFP has provided support to the agricultural sector over the last four planting seasons. Through an integrated programme, WFP provides direct assistance to farmers and supports related efforts such as rehabilitation of wells, water catchments, canals and other infrastructure. WFP also supports the repair of feeder roads to facilitate easier access to local markets. The WFP local cereal procurement programme assists farming communities in Somalia by stimulating local grain markets, while its food monetization programme generates financial support for agricultural rehabilitation projects. To assist over 200,000 people, ICRC provided seeds to 37,000 farming families in the main agricultural areas of Somalia for the 1996 gu season. The second phase of the ICRC agricultural programme aims to improve vegetable production and to assist in the manufacture of agricultural tools by local blacksmiths.

19. Implementation of a UNDP-supported project for the integrated agricultural and area development of Middle Shabelle started in April 1996. The project, co-financed and executed by the United Nations Volunteers (UNV), is designed to diversify and expand crop production, increase rural employment and improve investment opportunities. Specific project activities include, inter alia, rehabilitation of irrigation canals and other small-scale agricultural infrastructure, establishment of extension services, provision of credit facilities and development of small-scale income-generating schemes related to agriculture. The project, originally planned for the Juba valley, was relocated to Middle Shabelle owing to security considerations.

20. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) continued implementation of the Beyond Relief Programme in the Bay region until unacceptable security conditions forced the suspension of project activities in September 1995. Prior to the suspension, the Beyond Relief Programme had made a substantial contribution towards strengthening household food security and rehabilitating the agricultural and livestock sector in the project area through the implementation of participatory community-based interventions, ranging from the training of local blacksmiths to the execution of migratory pest-control campaigns. The sustainability of the programme's activities is manifested in the favourable level of crop projection achieved in the project area, even after the suspension of activities. IFAD is currently in the process of relocating the Beyond Relief Programme to north-west Somalia.

21. FAO and UNDP are collaborating in the implementation of an artisanal fisheries project in Lower and Middle Shabelle and Benadir regions. The project provides assistance to rebuild war-ravaged infrastructure for the small-scale

fishing industry, ensure a regular supply of fish for human consumption and improve income and employment opportunities in coastal communities. ICRC has distributed fishing materials to some 6,000 families in the Kismayo area. A number of other small-scale activities in the agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors are being supported in many areas of the country through UNHCR quick impact projects and the UNDP Somalia Rural Rehabilitation Programme, among other initiatives.

D. Health

22. Since 1991, there has been an increase in the level of communicable diseases, while at the same time, a significant reduction in the number of qualified Somali professionals working in the heath sector in the country has occurred. Low immunization coverage, poor water and sanitation conditions and the population's limited access to health services have exacerbated the situation. Diarrhoeal diseases, anaemia, malaria and acute respiratory infections remain among the leading causes of mortality in the country. United Nations agencies and their partners in Somalia have made concerted efforts to protect the health status of the population in the face of difficult conditions. In collaboration with WHO and non-governmental organizations, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF supports a total of 128 maternity health-care centres throughout Somalia, which provide mothers and children with a wide range of basic health and nutrition services, including vitamin and iron and folic acid supplements. UNICEF also supports 81 outpatient dispensaries, 470 health posts, 21 hospitals and 33 supplementary and therapeutic feeding centres, again in close cooperation with WHO and implementing non-governmental organizations. WFP supports health services by providing food rations to workers in primary health-care facilities and hospitals.

23. The number of malnourished children, pregnant women and nursing mothers receiving supplementary feeding through the 33 feeding centres declined over the past year from a monthly average of 22,000 beneficiaries to about 15,800. However, deteriorating food security conditions in the first half of 1996 have led to new increases in attendance in Mogadishu and in the Juba valley. In preparation for a possible nutrition crisis, WHO provided 22 Somalia health professionals with training for trainers, covering the operation of therapeutic feeding centres and methodologies for emergency nutritional assessments. In addition, copies of the WHO standard guidelines for emergency nutritional assessments, as well as the United States Centers for Disease Control/WHO nutritional assessment computer software, were distributed to international non-governmental organizations operational in Somalia.

24. WHO continued to give technical and material support to 13 tuberculosis treatment activities in Somalia and has provided training and laboratory support for three new anti-tuberculosis activities. Close to 3,000 tuberculosis patients completed directly observed therapy over the past year. WHO distributed 20 containers of essential drugs to non-governmental organizations and local health authorities to assist in the treatment of acute respiratory infections, diarrhoea, malaria and other diseases. Basic equipment and reagents were provided to support or establish five laboratories and three X-ray machines

were donated to selected local health facilities. In addition, WHO provided HIV/AIDS test kits to eight local health facilities in the country.

25. UNICEF continues to provide essential drugs and supplies to maternity health-care centres, health posts and other facilities, with increased emphasis on supervision and monitoring of programme activities to ensure efficiency and promote capacity-building. Between January 1995 and March 1996, ICRC provided a total of 167 tons of medical supplies to hospitals and other health facilities in Mogadishu, Hiran, Galgudud, Gedo, the Juba valley, the north-east and the north-west. In April 1996, in response to renewed heavy fighting in Mogadishu, a further 17 tons of emergency medical supplies was airlifted by ICRC to the city in order to assist in the treatment of the war-wounded, in collaboration with the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS). ICRC supports a food-for-work programme for 250 staff members at Digfer hospital and a training programme for selected medical staff of Keysaney hospital in Mogadishu. In the Juba valley, a community-based pilot health programme was implemented by ICRC in five villages during the first quarter of 1996. UNHCR has supported the rehabilitation of health infrastructure in major areas of resettlement.

26. In parallel with the provision of essential drugs, WHO organized training sessions for Somali health professionals on various topics, including the rational use of drugs, the collection and analysis of basic health data and the control and treatment of prevalent diseases. WHO has shifted its focus towards capacity-building within the Somali health sector, through training of laboratory technicians, private pharmacists and drug importers and support to the development of coordinated sustainable drug-supply programmes. Four Somali health professionals have been sponsored to attend a training programme in emergency preparedness and response, organized jointly by WHO and ICRC. As part of a joint United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and WHO reproductive health effort in Somalia, more than 500 nurses, midwives and traditional birth attendants have been provided with training in order to upgrade their skills in maternal and child health and family planning services. WHO has so far provided equipment and drugs to 25 maternity health-care centres under the project. UNICEF continues to support training activities for traditional birth attendants and community health workers.

27. In February 1996, cholera, which has now become endemic in Somalia, reappeared in Mogadishu and Kismayo and subsequently spread to many other areas of the country, including isolated rural communities. At the outset of the outbreak, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations established inter-agency cholera task forces at the central and regional levels in order to design and implement a coordinated programme of preventive and curative interventions in all affected areas. As in previous years, those consolidated efforts were effective in containing the epidemic and minimizing cholera-related fatalities. WHO provided some 30,000 litres of ringer lactate as well as other supplies and additional drugs required for the treatment of up to 12,000 cases of acute diarrhoea. UNICEF organized and coordinated massive anti-cholera water disinfection campaigns undertaken in many areas of the country by non-governmental organizations and Somali volunteers, and provided oral rehydration salts and other supplies. International non-governmental organizations were instrumental in combating the outbreak through their direct support to and supervision of isolation facilities and cholera treatment

centres. ICRC and SRCS also carried out cholera prevention efforts in Mogadishu and other hard-hit areas. The 1996 cholera outbreak had subsided by the middle of the year, with a total of 10,274 cases and 464 deaths recorded by WHO, representing a case fatality rate of 4.5 per cent.

28. At a time when many parts of the world are making substantial progress in the elimination of preventable diseases, the gains in immunization coverage achieved in Somalia during 1993 are being lost because of instability and high costs. In response to an increase in the number of cases of measles in Mogadishu, over 170,000 children under five years of age were vaccinated against the disease between November 1995 and February 1996 under an extensive immunization campaign conducted in the city by UNICEF with the assistance of WHO, non-governmental organizations and local health authorities. In 1995, WHO and UNICEF in collaboration with non-governmental organizations developed a new coordinated community-based strategy for an expanded immunization programme in Somalia.

29. In collaboration with WHO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has produced a set of health education textbooks, charts and other materials for use in primary schools in Somalia. The WHO guidelines for the treatment of acute respiratory infections and sexually transmitted diseases were translated into Somali by UNESCO and distributed to health facilities in the country. Seven additional villages have joined the WHO Basic Minimum Needs programme, which strives to support community efforts to meet local needs in a sustainable manner, bringing to 62 the number of Somali villages targeted under the programme. To combat malaria, WHO has supported initiatives to breed special larvivorous fish that eat mosquito larvae found in stagnant waters. WHO and the United Nations Development Office for Somalia, in collaboration with international non-governmental organizations and local health authorities, are working on the development of a health-information system for Somalia. WHO is also promoting the use of available technology for the planning of health systems and is working with the Development Office on the production of special maps for the planning, monitoring and evaluation of the health sector.

E. Water and sanitation

30. Access to safe drinking water and adequate waste disposal are integral to efforts aimed at protecting the health status and well-being of Somali populations. As regards water and sanitation, UNICEF rehabilitated or constructed several piped water systems and a total of 269 other water sources, including wells and boreholes, providing potable water to approximately 200,000 people in rural and urban areas of Somalia. UNHCR supported the rehabilitation of an additional 35 wells and 20 water catchments over the past year, with the assistance of WFP food inputs. Some 72 water and environmental sanitation committees have been formed at the community level and their members have been provided with training in order to enable the committees to take over water and sanitation responsibilities. UNICEF has constructed some 293 pit latrines, mainly at health and education facilities, providing improved sanitation conditions for some 40,000 people. Training of pump mechanics by UNICEF also contributes to the sustainability of interventions in the sector.

31. WHO guidelines for water and sanitation were distributed in collaboration with UNICEF in order to improve the quality and safety of water-harvesting and water-production efforts. As part of UNICEF social mobilization work, health and hygiene messages have been disseminated to people through radio broadcasts, plays and other means. The massive water disinfection campaign undertaken by non-governmental organizations during the first half of 1996 with the support of UNICEF, other United Nations agencies and ICRC played a major role in curbing the spread of cholera in the country. Since 1995, ICRC has dug or rehabilitated over 70 wells and boreholes in Mogadishu, Mudug and the Juba valley, and a total of 35 wells were equipped with hand pumps.

32. In the first months of 1996, a prolonged dry season and ensuing water shortages in drought-prone areas of northern Somalia led to population movements and high mortality rates among livestock. To help the affected populations and support local coping mechanisms, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations assisted with the delivery of potable water, the provision of food aid to the most vulnerable groups and the repairing of strategic water wells and boreholes in the worst affected areas. The assistance was undertaken in collaboration with local authorities through inter-agency drought task forces set up at Hargeisa and Bossaso. ICRC rehabilitated a strategic borehole for livestock in the Sool region and provided spare parts for two other boreholes in the area.

F. Education

33. The provision of basic education to vulnerable groups, in particular to female children, has suffered a setback owing to renewed hostilities in several parts of Somalia combined with the withdrawal or scaling down of assistance by some humanitarian agencies. Widespread school closures are reported and, in the absence of sustainable mechanisms for remunerating teachers, the quality of education in the schools that continue to operate is likely to deteriorate further. As a result, the positive impact of donor investments made in favour of the education sector in 1993/94 has been placed at risk. In addition, the presence of a large unschooled or undereducated population in Somalia carries future social and development costs for the country. United Nations agencies and their partners have thus been working to protect and promote basic education, in particular through support to primary schools.

34. UNESCO, UNICEF and implementing non-governmental organizations support about 750 primary and Koranic schools in the country, catering to a total population of about 160,000 children. UNICEF continues to distribute education kits and other learning materials to functioning schools. The UNESCO education development centres at Mogadishu, Baidoa, Hargeisa, Garoe and Djibouti and its education rehabilitation units at Garbaharey and Hoddur facilitate the development of curricular materials and teacher training efforts for the country. WFP provides important support to the education sector through food-for-work inputs for teachers and trainees and its special feeding programmes for students. The rehabilitation of school buildings is supported by UNICEF, UNDP, UNHCR and WFP.

35. UNESCO has produced and organized the distribution of primary-level textbooks for Somalia, including a special edition for use in the north-west. Twenty-nine teacher-guide titles have been prepared, of which 25,000 copies have been printed in the low-cost print shops attached to the education development centres. A total of 1,900 emergency education packages developed by UNESCO were distributed in internally displaced settlements, rural areas and refugee camps. Each package serves as a self-contained classroom, with supplies and instructional materials for a class of 40 students. UNESCO has also prepared educational cloth charts, adult literacy materials and, in collaboration with UNHCR, environmental education kits for use in primary schools in Somali refugee camps in Kenya.

36. Through a joint training programme, UNICEF and UNESCO have created a cadre of regional trainers who mobilize community support and undertake school monitoring and inspection functions, in addition to providing training to others. A set of training-of-trainers' materials and a video on good classroom practices have been produced. UNESCO conducted over 100 training workshops for head teachers in 15 regions of the country and in Somali refugee camps in Kenya, Djibouti and Yemen. The UNESCO Somalia Open Learning Unit, which provides in-service teacher training to practising but untrained teachers leading up to a diploma, is expanding and currently operates five centres in four regions.

37. UNESCO and the United Nations Development Office for Somalia conducted comprehensive educational surveys in the Bay, Middle Shabelle, Bari, Nugal and Mudug regions of Somalia. As part of the mid-decade review of progress towards Education For All, a country case study on Somalia was completed under the coordination of UNESCO and presented at the regional Education For All policy review seminar held at Johannesburg, South Africa, in February 1996. In order to contribute to the sustainability of educational programmes, UNESCO, UNICEF and WFP have assisted in the formation of local and regional education boards or committees.

G. Refugees and returnees

38. Between December 1994 and December 1995, over 40,000 Somali refugees in Kenya returned to Somalia under the UNHCR voluntary repatriation programme, mainly to the Juba valley and the north-east. Some 700 Somali refugees were repatriated by UNHCR from Kenya to the north-east in April and May 1996, and another 12,000 Somali refugees were expected to return to Somalia mainly from neighbouring countries during the remainder of the year. The return of refugees places an additional burden on already fragile local infrastructures and the provision of continued support to returnees is vital to ensure their sustainable reintegration.

39. In the absence of a recognized government and effective national counterparts, international aid agencies are being called upon to play a substantial role in meeting the reintegration needs of the returnees. UNHCR and its partners supports initiatives to strengthen and improve basic socio-economic conditions and infrastructure in areas of return, thereby encouraging stability and the full integration of the returnees into the recipient communities. Towards this end, quick impact projects, focusing on the rehabilitation of

social services and the creation of income-generating opportunities, are being implemented in the Juba valley and the north-east regions, directly benefiting a total of 170,000 people in resettlement areas. Since 1991, over 700 quick impact projects in the education, water, health and other sectors have been implemented in Somalia. UNHCR will continue to facilitate and prepare the ground for the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees. As of June 1996, a total of 475,000 Somali refugees remained registered in camps in Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti and Yemen.

40. UNHCR currently runs a cross-border operation from Kenya and maintains field offices in Hargeisa, Bossaso, Galcayo and Kismayo. This field presence enables UNHCR to monitor post-return living conditions closely and to facilitate rapid response. Some 800 Somalis crossed the border as refugees into Kenya in May and June 1996, when food shortages, insecurity and minority targeting led to population movements in parts of southern Somalia. UNHCR participated in the preparation and implementation of the consolidated plan of action undertaken by United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations in order to prevent a renewed refugee influx into Kenya. WFP provides interim food rations to returnees in order to assure their subsistence during initial reintegration and resettlement periods. ICRC has distributed relief food aid to thousands of vulnerable returnee families in Bardera, the Juba valley and other areas of the country over the past year.

H. Internally displaced persons

41. By mid-1995, inter-agency plans and strategies were in place for the resettlement of internally displaced persons to chosen areas of return within Somalia. However, the implementation of return-and-reintegration programmes was subsequently disrupted because of increased political instability and armed conflict, in particular in southern Somalia, provoking renewed population movements, mainly towards relatively peaceful areas in the north-east and north-west, but also within the southern regions of the country. United Nations agencies and organizations are exploring viable strategy options for the provision of assistance to the country's internally displaced populations under current conditions. It is estimated that there are presently at least 200,000 internally displaced persons in Somalia. They remain among the most vulnerable groups in the country.

42. The largest concentration of internally displaced persons is found in Mogadishu, where a survey by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in October 1995 revealed a total of 54,680 people living in 109 camps. Other major areas of displaced settlements are in Bossaso, Burao and Kismayo. The United Nations and non-governmental-organization consolidated programme of food and non-food assistance initiated in May 1996 in the Juba valley was designed to halt population movements and to support resettlement of internally displaced persons. As part of its assistance activities in Lower and Middle Juba, ICRC has over the past year provided food aid and other relief items to thousands of displaced persons in Kismayo and other areas of the valley.

43. To assist people fleeing insecurity in the Baidoa area in 1995, ICRC distributed plastic sheeting, blankets and other survival items to over 20,000

displaced families living in the Bay, Bakool and Gedo regions, and similar relief supplies were provided to 5,000 families displaced by fighting in the Middle Shabelle region. Under an operation undertaken by UNDP and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, some 14 tons of non-food relief supplies were airlifted from the Department's warehouse in Pisa, Italy, for distribution to internally displaced persons affected by heavy rains and flooding at Mogadishu in November 1995. In February 1996, ICRC distributed additional relief supplies to 15,000 families in the city's camps for internally displaced persons. In northern Somalia, ICRC distributed non-food relief items to over 60,000 internally displaced and conflict-affected persons, as well as returnees.

44. WFP continues to provide relief food assistance to vulnerable internally displaced populations in Somalia, including over 57,000 conflict-affected people in the Burao area. In general, WFP strives to limit food aid provided to displaced persons in order to discourage relief dependency and to encourage return to home communities, whenever feasible. Internally displaced persons, as well as returnees and host communities, also benefit from the network of UNICEF-supported primary health-care facilities and many other United Nations relief and rehabilitation programmes under implementation in the country. Although not falling directly under its mandate, UNHCR remains concerned about the plight of the country's internally displaced population and exercises an advocacy role vis-à-vis aid agencies and local authorities. UNHCR and UNFPA have embarked on a joint initiative to study and compile information on the socio-economic characteristics of populations in major areas of displacement and resettlement.

III. RECONSTRUCTION STRATEGIES AND EFFORTS

45. Although a return to acute humanitarian crisis has been averted, political instability and the ensuing insecurity have prevented the country as a whole from moving into a straightforward reconstruction mode and, under current conditions, possibilities for medium- or long-term economic and social development are limited. In addition, as there are no recognized counterparts in Somalia, traditional instruments of the United Nations system to assist Governments in achieving national recovery and development objectives, including preparation of a country strategy note, are not applicable in the country. However, relatively stable conditions in certain locations have created an environment conducive to some reconstruction and development-oriented work and, despite the inherent risks associated with the absence of a formal economy, several parts of Somalia have moved out of emergency situations, enabling the reactivation of business and other economical activities, in particular in the northern regions.

46. Faced with that reality, United Nations agencies operating in Somalia have adopted a regional approach whereby interventions are designed and implemented to address the prevailing situation in each geographical area, taking into account the area's relative position along the relief-to-development continuum. In another sense, however, the distinction between relief and rehabilitation assistance in Somalia is becoming increasingly blurred, as the main underlying causes of human suffering and emergency needs remain the population's lack of purchasing power and employment opportunities combined with the absence of civil

and social infrastructure and institutions of governance. In that context, assistance for relief, rehabilitation and, to some extent, reconstruction has become inextricably linked.

47. The Code of Conduct for International Rehabilitation and Development Assistance to Somalia, adopted by the Somalia Aid Coordination Body in 1995, and the Guidelines for United Nations Humanitarian Relief Operations in Somalia, continue to offer a general framework for optimal operational conditions for international aid to Somalia. The Somalia Aid Coordination Body is monitoring the implementation of the Code of Conduct, which has been utilized on several occasions over the past year as the basis for collective action by United Nations agencies, donors, non-governmental organizations and other international organizations. A document adopted by the Coordination Body in June 1996 on working arrangements between the international aid community and responsible Somali authorities, reaffirmed the Code's basic principle that the effective execution of international assistance remains the responsibility of the Somali people and that peace, security and the existence of responsible Somali authorities are prerequisites for the sustainable implementation of rehabilitation and development activities in the country. The June 1996 document also reaffirmed the commitment of the international aid community to providing assistance to those in need in Somalia and to remaining neutral on issues of a purely political nature.

48. The United Nations strategy for rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in Somalia continues to focus largely on the implementation of sustainable community-based activities in support of local coping mechanisms and to bolster self-sufficiency. The UNDP Somalia rural rehabilitation programme assists communities to build their self-reliance capabilities and to meet basic minimum needs through the provision of technical assistance and small investment capital. Under the programme, some 85 small-scale projects are currently under implementation, in close collaboration with the target communities, primarily in the areas of employment-generation and infrastructure rehabilitation. The Programme, which is executed by the United Nations Office for Project Services of the Secretariat, is currently active in the north-east and north-west parts of Somalia, and plans are under way to expand activities into the Gedo region. A comparable UNDP-supported integrated agricultural and area development project, executed by UNV, began activities in the Middle Shabelle region in June 1996.

49. A programme of assistance being undertaken by UNDP and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is building the capacity of Somali staff in the management of essential aviation facilities and services in the country. Training has been provided in air traffic control, aeronautical information services, fire-fighting and other areas, which has improved the safety of air operations and facilitated the delivery of humanitarian aid and commercial goods. The project has also upgraded major airstrips, provided basic airport equipment and assisted local authorities to develop airport revenue-generation systems. To contribute to the recovery of local economy and the alleviation of poverty, UNDP in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) continues implementation of a project to assist in the rehabilitation and sustainable operation of Somali ports, which are vital to trade and the sustenance of many people's livelihoods. The project has

supported the establishment of viable port authorities at Berbera, Bossaso and Kismayo, and has provided technical assistance and equipment as well as training for port personnel.

50. The United Nations Development Office for Somalia, a UNDP project executed by the United Nations Office for Project Services, is focusing on strengthening the planning and management capacities of local and regional administrative structures in Somalia and is working closely with United Nations agencies, donors, non-governmental organizations and Somali institutions to integrate and link inter-sectorial programmes and projects in order to ensure effective and efficient resource utilization. Other core functions of the Development Office currently include economic planning and policy analysis, development of statistical databases and maintenance of a documentation unit on Somalia. The Development Office continues to provide secretariat support to the Somalia Aid Coordination Body.

51. UNDP and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) have begun implementation of an urban settlement and management programme at Hargeisa. The programme is designed to improve urban living conditions and strengthen municipal institutional capacities for the planning and operation of urban facilities and public services, including water supply and solid waste management. Among other activities, the project is assisting in the preparation of a medium-term human resource development programme and a plan of action for infrastructure rehabilitation, as well as establishing systematic monitoring and maintenance mechanisms and generating job opportunities for female-headed households. Somalia is covered in an initiative of UNDP, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Bank to produce a strategic action programme for the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden aimed at safeguarding the region's marine resources and providing guidelines for environmentally sound development plans and projects.

52. As there are an estimated 1 million landmines still laid in Somali soil, UNESCO mine-awareness materials remain relevant and are used in schools, while ICRC in collaboration with SRCS is launching a mine-awareness campaign in Mogadishu, targeted towards youth and militia groups. UNESCO has distributed, in the form of video and audio tapes, a play promoting demobilization and disarmament. Also developed by UNESCO are a video containing Somali peace songs and a primary-level peace education package. UNDP, UNHCR and WFP have supported demobilization activities in certain areas of the country. Following the first symposium on the culture of peace in Somalia, which was held in 1995 in Sana'a, two additional culture of peace meetings took place in Paris and Addis Ababa. These were organized by UNESCO with the collaboration of the European Union (EU) and attended by Somali intellectuals both resident in and outside Somalia. Several Somali women have taken part in training-of-trainers' workshops covering conflict-resolution and community-based mediation techniques, organized by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). UNIFEM is also in the process of carrying out a research study on the role of Somali women in the country's peace process.

IV. COORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS

53. The need for close coordination and collaboration among humanitarian partners in Somalia has intensified over the past year in view of continued insecurity and instability, the absence of effective national counterparts, limited donor resources and the precarious humanitarian situation. The United Nations Coordination Team, chaired by the UNDP Resident Representative, who is also the United Nations Humanitarian and Resident Coordinator for Somalia, continues to be a useful forum for the regular exchange of information on the activities of its members, as well as on the security, political and humanitarian situation in the country. The United Nations Coordination Team consists of senior representatives of all 13 United Nations agencies and organizations operational in the country, as well as the United Nations Political Office for Somalia, ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies. The United Nations Coordination Team cooperates closely with national and international non-governmental organization consortia and the Somalia Aid Coordination Body. The United Nations Coordination Unit, which was established as a division within the UNDP country office, continues to play an important role in facilitating and strengthening coordination and collaboration within the United Nations system, with respect to both humanitarian and rehabilitation interventions, through the provision of a wide range of information, logistical, organizational and analytical services. The United Nations Coordination Unit is funded by UNDP.

54. Coordination of sectoral activities has been enhanced through the strengthening or creation of several inter-agency task forces and thematic working groups. In the health and nutrition sector, greater collaboration among United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations over the past year has led to a streamlining of interventions and improved standardization and quality of service. Under the lead of UNESCO and UNICEF, aid agencies are in the process of formulating joint plans and strategies for supporting the education sector in the country. In 1995, the United Nations Resident Coordinator established an inter-agency HIV/AIDS theme group, which, under the chairmanship of WHO, has been useful in bringing together United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations to review the AIDS problem in Somalia and to explore possibilities for joint action. Similarly, an inter-agency task force on internally displaced persons, co-chaired by UNDP and IOM, was created to facilitate information exchange and the planning and implementation of coordinated United Nations interventions targeting displaced populations. Efforts in sectoral coordination have benefited significantly from the technical expertise and specialized services provided by the United Nations Development Office for Somalia. In February 1996 the Somalia Aid Coordination Body formed a special committee to enhance and provide guidance for sectoral coordination.

55. To facilitate and improve inter-agency coordination at the field level in Somalia, the United Nations Coordination Team in 1995 established the practice of designating one United Nations agency official as its focal point in each area of operation within the country. The focal points are selected on a rotating basis from among the senior field representatives of the United Nations agencies serving in each geographical area of operation in the country. The functions of the United Nations Coordination Team focal point include,

inter alia, facilitating the collection and exchange of relevant information, acting as a consensus builder among the United Nations agencies with regards to operational strategies and maintaining liaison with local authorities with a view to reaching solutions to common problems. The United Nations field coordination modality invites the involvement of international non-governmental organizations, whenever feasible.

56. In accordance with the recommendations of the inter-agency mission of February 1996 fielded on behalf of the Inter-agency Standing Committee, and in view of limited donor funding, innovative operational strategies are being pursued by the United Nations agencies and organizations in order to maximize the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of United Nations activities in the country. In the area of air transport, the United Nations agencies under the leadership of WFP are entering into joint leasing arrangements to consolidate their aircraft services, in the interests of reducing costs and providing adequate capacity to meet the needs of all United Nations agencies. Also in line with the mission's recommendations, agreements for the establishment of common premises and the joint sharing of communications and security facilities are being explored by the United Nations agencies.

V. IMPACT OF SECURITY PROBLEMS

57. Humanitarian operations in Somalia continue to be severely impeded by security problems, including looting and inter-clan violence. While the civil conflict over the past year has often been localized and of a low level of intensity, the fighting has at times been heavy, claiming the lives of many innocent civilians, including women and children. There have been numerous incidents and attacks directed at or affecting humanitarian agencies and staff throughout Somalia, some ending tragically. As a result, assistance programmes have been suspended or greatly curtailed in several areas of the country. Overall, the level of access to civilian populations in Somalia has deteriorated since September 1995.

58. Security conditions in northern Somalia have generally been favourable for the implementation of United Nations agency programmes, while instability and conflict have seriously disrupted the flow of relief and rehabilitation assistance in southern Somalia. Where security conditions permit, United Nations assistance is delivered under the direct supervision of international staff. There are currently about 40 United Nations international staff in Somalia, with presence in Hargeisa, Berbera, Boroma, Bossaso, Galcayo, Kismayo and Jowhar. In areas where security conditions preclude the permanent presence of international staff, United Nations agency activities are undertaken by national staff, who in many cases are facing increasingly stressful conditions and attempts at intimidation by some local communities. The regular monitoring of project activities has been complicated by prevailing security conditions in many areas of the country.

59. In parts of southern Somalia, the need for relief assistance has risen, while the United Nations ability to deliver food and non-food supplies has seriously declined because of the worsening security conditions. Since the capture of Baidoa by the forces of General Mohamed Aidid in September 1995,

virtually all United Nations agency offices in the Bay and Bakool regions have remained closed and all non-emergency assistance programmes have been suspended. During the takeover of Baidoa, 20 international staff members of United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations were temporarily detained and most United Nations equipment and supplies were looted or lost. Sporadic fighting has continued to take place in the Bay and Bakool regions. In view of the situation, there has been no return to the area by United Nations international staff and the scale of operations executed by national staff has been drastically reduced. Relief and rehabilitation assistance to the Juba valley has also been very problematic owing to insecurity. The situation in southern Somalia has contributed to renewed population movements and has prevented to a large extent the implementation of resettlement programmes for internally displaced persons.

60. Mogadishu remains a tense and divided city and the situation is currently not conducive to the permanent presence of United Nations international staff or to non-emergency operations. Some non-governmental organizations have continued to post international staff to Mogadishu, but their presence has been maintained at minimal levels. The main airport in Mogadishu has remained closed since March 1995. In October 1995, fighting increased in intensity between rival factions in the city, causing the country's main port in south Mogadishu to cease functioning and to have a negative effect on the flow of humanitarian assistance to the city and to the interior regions of the country. Relief supplies and commercial goods have since been delivered through smaller ports near Mogadishu, but use of these alternate ports is an unsatisfactory substitute. In April 1996, inter-factional fighting resurfaced in south Mogadishu, killing hundreds of civilians and displacing many more, and having a severe impact on the humanitarian situation in the city. In addition, several United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations operating in south Mogadishu in 1996 have had relief supplies seized by militia men and have experienced other obstacles that have further restricted implementation of essential assistance programmes targeting the city's vulnerable population.

61. Common arrangements for United Nations security are in place under the leadership of the United Nations designated official for security matters, who is also the UNDP Resident Representative and United Nations Humanitarian and Resident Coordinator for Somalia. Under the arrangement, a United Nations security officer is posted in each operational area in Somalia where United Nations agency international personnel are present. As part of the arrangement, the United Nations agencies contribute funding or personnel for the common security system, which is managed by the designated official in consultation with the United Nations Coordination Team. Presently, there are a total of six international security officers serving the United Nations system in Somalia.

VI. ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY MEMBER STATES

62. In addition to the activities described above, several Member States have provided information on assistance to Somalia pursuant to General Assembly resolution 50/58 G.

Denmark

63. The Government of Denmark made contributions totalling DKr 14,776,383 towards relief programmes in Somalia in 1995: DKr 4 million went to UNHCR for repatriation and integration activities; DKr 5 million went towards a UNICEF water project in Mogadishu; DKr 76,383 went to WFP for the secondment of port personnel; and DKr 500,000 was provided to IOM for the registration and transportation of internally displaced persons. DKr 3 million was provided to the Danish Red Cross towards the ICRC aid programme in Somalia, while a further DKr 1 million was provided to the Danish Red Cross for IFRC emergency and repatriation programmes. In 1996 the Government of Denmark provided a total of DKr 11,305,346 towards relief assistance in Somalia. Of that amount, DKr 2.2 million went to UNICEF food aid distribution to internally displaced persons, DKr 5 million the Danish Red Cross for ICRC programmes and DKr 4,105,346 to Adventist Development Relief Agency.

Finland

64. In 1995 the Government of Finland contributed a total of Fmk 3 million to Somalia, of which Fmk 2 million was donated to UNHCR and Fmk 1 million was provided to the Finnish Red Cross/ICRC. As at 30 June 1996, the Government of Finland had contributed Fmk 2 million to UNHCR and Fmk 400,000 to the Finnish Red Cross/ICRC for humanitarian assistance programmes in Somalia.

Germany

65. In 1995 the Government of Germany provided UNHCR with DM 500,000 to assist in the repatriation programme for Somali refugees in Djibouti. Food aid for Somalia totalling DM 2,651,000 was provided through the German non-governmental organization Deutsche Welt Hunger Hilfe. The Government of Germany also made a contribution of DM 40,000 towards the convening of a Department of Peackeeping Operations/United Nations Operation in Somalia Lessons Learned Seminar. In 1996 ICRC was the recipient of DM 490,000 to undertake its relief programme in Somalia.

Italy

66. The Italian Emergency Department, which in 1995 had no programme in Somalia because of the civil war, in 1996 pledged a financial programme of approximately Lit 3 billion to Somalia. Of this amount, Lit 800 million will go towards continuing the health and social programme of Garoe; and Lit 2.1 billion has been pledged to UNHCR and to UNICEF for their health and social programmes. A contribution of Lit 1 billion has also been pledged in favour of the United Nations Development Office for Somalia.

Japan

67. Between 1 April 1995 and 31 March 1996 the Government of Japan made a number of contributions to United Nations relief assistance programmes in Somalia. This includes US$ 4.6 million to UNHCR to assist in the repatriation of Somali refugees from Kenya and the Cross Border Operation; $6,860,000 to WFP for programmes within Somalia as well as for refugees from Somalia (portions of this food were provided to refugees from Sudan and Ethiopia through WFP); and $2,940,000 to WFP for emergency food aid for war victims in Somalia.

Liechtenstein

68. In July 1996 Liechtenstein contributed Sw F 10,000 to the Department of Humanitarian Affairs for its Somalia programme.

Norway

69. In 1996 the Government of Norway contributed a total of NKr 3,912,890 to Somalia. Of this amount, NKr 2,250,550 went to Norwegian Church Aid for rehabilitation programmes for returnees in the Gedo region and NKr 1,662,340 went to the UNICEF supplementary feeding programme.

Saudi Arabia

70. During the civil war in Somalia, the Government of Saudi Arabia provided food and relief assistance to the value of US$ 15 million for the people of Somalia. Special assistance of $5 million was provided by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin Abdulaziz, to relieve the crises of hunger in Somalia. Another amount totalling $2,738,000 was provided as development assistance. The Saudi Arabia Crescent Society is continuing the process of collecting contributions on the popular level for the people of Somalia. These contributions, which are in kind, are sent on a regular basis to Somalia.

Switzerland

71. The Government of Switzerland provided a total of SFr 2,343,000 in humanitarian assistance to Somalia in 1996.

VII. CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

72. Although there have been some positive developments since the last report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia (A/50/447), the situation in Somalia continues to frustrate the international community and to exact an enormous price upon the country's population. Continued destruction of property, wanton violence and the ensuing displacement of civilians, in particular in the southern regions of the country, keep Somalia in an extremely precarious humanitarian situation. This is further complicated by the continued closure of the port of Mogadishu, seriously affecting the general food imports and relief food assistance. United Nations agencies and national and international non-governmental organizations are therefore required to remain at

the forefront of relief interventions in these areas, expending much of their effort in ensuring that waves of disaster are held at bay.

73. In areas of the south where significant gains had been made in recent years through the combined efforts of committed Somali communities and national and international humanitarian partners, the self-serving actions of a few have had consequences for many. The events that occurred in September 1995, when the town of Baidoa in the agriculturally rich Bay region was overrun by the militia of General Aidid, are a case in point. The area had enjoyed relative peace and stability and was, as a result, the main focus of rehabilitation efforts in southern Somalia. Because of the success of programmes in the area, it had become a showcase of donor and agency activities and was a vital example of what could be achieved in a Somalia when citizens felt secure and could turn their attention towards production, and away from fear and despair. The incursion by the late General Aidid and the consequent disruption in agricultural production in what is the principal grain-producing area of the country had repercussions for Somalia as a whole, resulting in major setbacks for humanitarian and rehabilitation activities from which the region has still not recovered. Such insecurity and attacks on civilians and humanitarian programmes and partners continue to characterize the situation in the south. The recent naming of Hussein Farah Aidid as successor to his father, General Aidid, may have implications for the situation in southern Somalia. It is clear that unless there is commitment on the part of faction leaders that they will not continue to hold Somalia hostage to their political ambitions, the country will remain in a state of acute vulnerability and those who will continue to suffer will be the weakest and the poorest.

74. Throughout Somalia, a substantial burden has been placed upon United Nations agencies and their partners to increase their sectoral activities, largely because, in the absence of national institutions and authorities, international agencies have had to fulfil the role of facilitators and negotiators in very insecure and war-ravaged environments. But there are areas, notably in the north of the country, which show a marked interest in pursuing the ideals of peace and stability. Even where pockets of insecurity continue to exist, conditions in these areas are far less precarious for the general population. There we find the re-emergence of institutions and authorities, community-engendered capacity-building initiatives, the reconstruction of local economies and infrastructures for social services and the reactivation of trade activities and livestock production. International agencies for their part have focused more on a combination of relief and rehabilitation activities in those areas and have moved away from mainly emergency-oriented programmes. Efforts have focused to a large extent on sustainable community-based activities that support local economies and encourage and strengthen self-support and self-reliance.

75. United Nations agencies and their partners are involved in supporting the revitalization of local economies, generating employment, providing training, enhancing local capacities and rehabilitating infrastructure. In addition to many other activities, children are being vaccinated, schools are being built, wells dug and chlorinated, aviation and port facilities managed, health facilities constructed and livestock production assisted. All of these multisectoral activities are part of a concerted effort by the United Nations

agencies to make a contribution towards good governance in Somalia. Rehabilitation efforts can thus be said to be taking place in those areas of Somalia where leaders and communities have shown themselves ready and willing to move away from protracted warfare and violence.

76. There is clearly a stark difference in assistance requirements in Somalia from one geographical region to another and those differences are inextricably linked to the security environments that exist. Bearing in mind that Somalia is a composite of these differing environments, the United Nations agencies are in the process of developing a resource mobilization strategy and appeal document that reflect the problematic context in which operations are carried out. While diminishing donor resources for Somalia have reined in the operations of humanitarian partners, donors are encouraged to adopt a proactive and forward-thinking approach with regard to Somalia. The international community should support the efforts of the United Nations agencies and their partners in order to encourage and reward the continuance of progress in those areas of Somalia which are making rigorous efforts to move forward and in order that other areas of the country can begin to see the concrete advantages and developments the citizens of Somalia can enjoy when their leaders are willing to break the cycle of despair.